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# THE TIMES

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Questions on who fired fatal shot

## MPs demand release of jailed para

By PAUL WILKINSON, JONATHAN PRYNN AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE campaign to free Private Lee Clegg, the paratrooper jailed for life for killing a joyrider in Belfast in 1990, was taken up by at least 50 Tory MPs last night. They demanded an emergency Commons debate.

After his appeal against conviction was rejected by the Law Lords last week, the momentum for Clegg's release has increased dramatically.

Iain Duncan-Smith, Tory MP for Chingford, called for an emergency debate as a matter of great urgency because soldiers on patrol in Northern Ireland, making decisions affecting their lives and the lives of others, had been left uncertain about their position by the Law Lords' decision.

Last night from his cell in Wakefield prison, Clegg said that he was gratified by the support he was receiving from members of the public and from retired Parachute Regiment officers who have launched a campaign for his release.

Now in the third year of a life sentence, Clegg told BBC Radio 4: "I am overwhelmed by the level of support. My sole aim in life is, as a British citizen, to do my part for Queen and country."

The Tory MPs signed a Commons motion expressing dismay at the Clegg conviction and calling for his speedy release. The motion demands that the Government gives legal force to British soldiers' rules of engagement in Northern Ireland so that charges can never again be brought against soldiers who open fire



Clegg overwhelmed by level of support

under circumstances conforming to them."

Although Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, turned down the call for an emergency debate, she did not rule out the possibility of an MP addressing the matter in one of the brief backbench debates at the end of each day's sitting.

Yesterday the main supporters of Clegg, 26, raised new doubts about the conviction. A team of former members of the Parachute Regiment, supported by Simon McKay, Clegg's lawyer, claimed that he might not have fired the fatal bullet. Clegg was sentenced in 1992 for the murder of Karen Reilly, 18, a passenger in a stolen car fired on by an Army patrol as it crashed through a roadblock in West Belfast. Statements that might have supported him were not taken from other soldiers.

A no-jury trial in Belfast was told that Miss Reilly had been hit in the back by the last of four bullets fired by Clegg. The judge ruled that although

the shots were fired within three seconds, the final one was unjustified as the car had gone past the soldier and was no longer a threat.

Mr Duncan-Smith emphasised that the "yellow card", which tells soldiers in Ulster when they might fire, included the words: "You may only open fire against a person deliberately driving a vehicle at a person and there is no other way of stopping him."

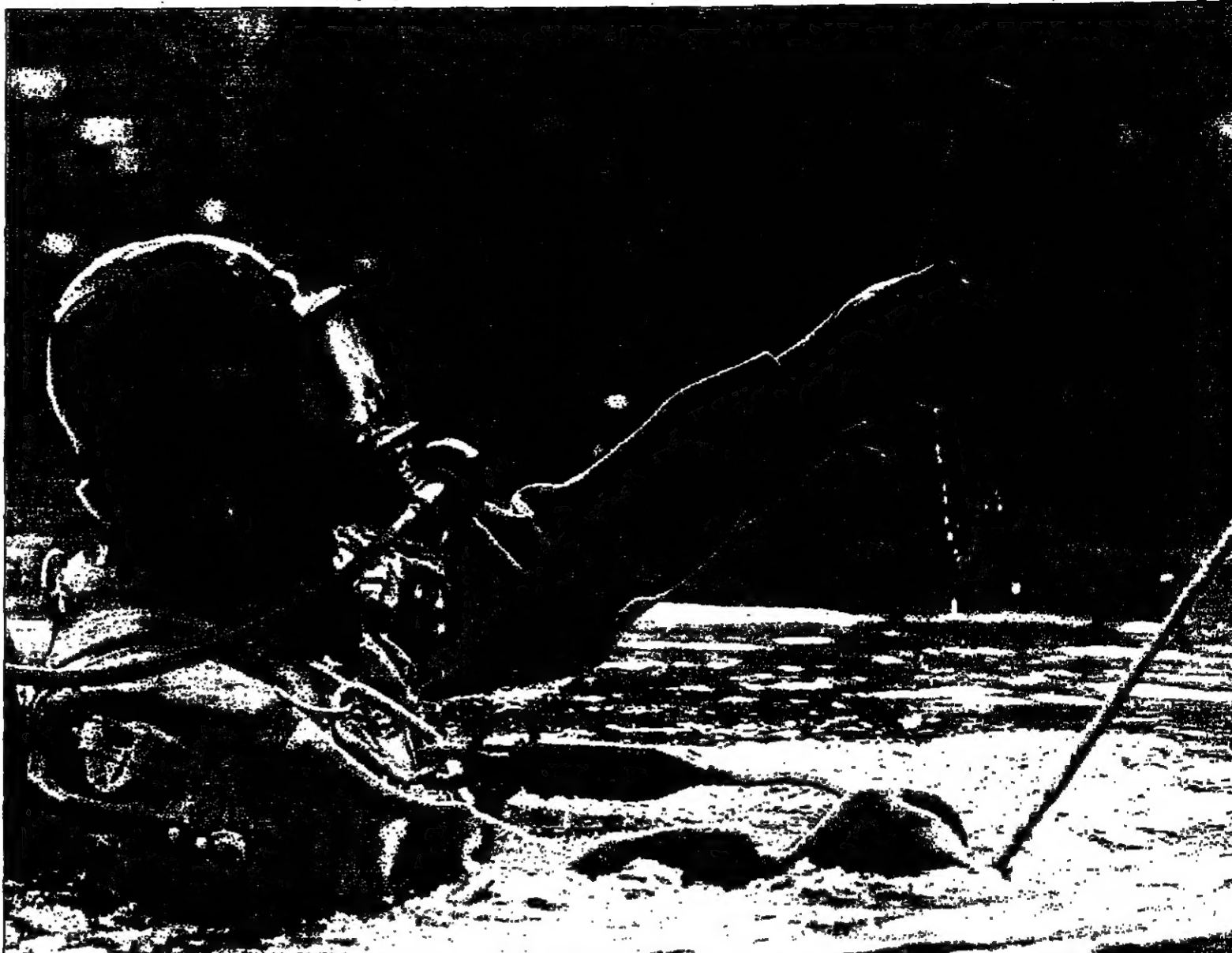
Yesterday Mr McKay said they were seeking a re-examination of scientific evidence given at the trial. It had indicated that Clegg's shot was one of those which killed Miss Reilly, but statements taken since by Mr McKay from other members of the patrol suggested that he might not have fired the fatal bullet.

He traced four members of the 17-strong unit, and two had told him they were still firing at the car as it passed, but Mr Clegg had stopped.

Mr McKay said: "The ballistic issues were not challenged satisfactorily by Clegg's defence. This crucial evidence was given by a retired firearms specialist. From his evidence, it appears that he had no academic qualifications as his report seems to have been prepared with the help of other people. The report had five different types of handwriting."

"There was an acceptance by the defence from the beginning that the defence from the beginning

Critical seconds, page 2  
Leading article, and  
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A diver surfaces with a hatchet from the Queen's Mere on Wimbledon Common yesterday. Wimbledon magistrates gave Mr Stagg and Miss Beddoes bail

## Stagg banned from Wimbledon Common

By BILL FROST



Stagg: told he must not contact witnesses

POLICE divers recovered a hatchet yesterday from Queen's Mere on Wimbledon Common close to the scene where Colin Stagg, who was cleared last year of murdering Rachel Nickell, is alleged to have attacked a father and son. Earlier, Mr Stagg had appeared in court charged with assault and carrying an offensive weapon.

He and his girlfriend, Diane Beddoes, were remanded on bail until February 6 on condition that they

avoided the Common and did not contact witnesses. The pair were jointly charged with possessing an offensive weapon, affray, and assault causing actual bodily harm.

They appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court, south-west London, having been arrested after an alleged incident on the common on Sunday involving a man in his 30s and his 11-year-old son. Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Mr Stagg, 31, of Roehampton, south-west

London, was held in police custody overnight. Ms Beddoes, 26, had to run a gauntlet of photographers.

After Mr Stagg was granted bail, Ian Ryan, his solicitor, condemned some press coverage of the alleged incident. "It is utterly disgraceful it should be reported like this," he said, adding that he would compile a dossier of cuttings to pass to the Attorney General. He reminded the media that his client was "innocent until proven guilty".



Beddoes: remanded to appear on February 6

## Glaxo bids £9 bn for Wellcome

By SARAH BAGNALL

GLAXO yesterday offered £8.9 billion for Wellcome, the rival drugs company, making it the biggest takeover bid in British history.

The offer has been accepted by The Wellcome Trust, which holds nearly 40 per cent of the shares. The balance is held by management, institutional investors and the public. Management is considering the offer.

Glaxo said it expects to pay out another £500 million to Wellcome's directors and staff if they exercise all their share options. According to the latest annual report, John Robb, the chairman and chief executive, has options over 251,000

shares, now worth £2.6 million.

Glaxo Wellcome would be the biggest pharmaceutical company in the world, with a market share of 5.3 per cent and a research budget of more than £1.2 billion.

Glaxo said that the deal would result in plant closures and job losses. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said: "There is going to be significant rationalisation when you bring together two companies doing the same thing."

Paul Talbot, national officer for MSF, the largest staff union for both companies, said: "Any overlap in activities... would mean job losses."

Glaxo is Britain's biggest drug company. Wellcome is the fourth largest.

Wellcome's history, page 17  
£9 billion bid, page 23  
Pennington, page 25

## Opt-out heads seek charity assurances

Head teachers of grant-maintained schools are to demand assurances about the Labour Party's threat to restrict charitable status when they meet David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, next month.

Concern that opt-out schools might be affected by any scrapping of the charitable status threatens to strain already difficult relations between the present 1,000 grant-maintained schools and Labour, which wants to bring them back under some form of local authority control. Page 5

## Private money in the Treasury

The Treasury is to be rebuilt with private sector money. Private developers will be offered a chance to acquire part of the Portland stone building on the corner of Parliament Square and Whitehall, in exchange for financing the refurbishing. Page 25

## CSA shakeup eases woes of middle-class fathers

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY yesterday bowed to pressure from middle-class fathers and Tory MPs and announced sweeping changes to the Child Support Agency.

The Social Security Secretary unveiled reforms intended to ease the burden on both low income and better off families. He has also deferred indefinitely the date when the agency starts assessing parents who are not on benefit.

The £270 million package of measures, outlined in a White Paper, comes after a barrage of criticism from fathers, pressure groups and Conservative MPs. The agency's pursuit of absent fathers has been linked to suicides by parents faced with child maintenance bills they cannot afford.

In other cases families have been bankrupted by the payments demanded. Mr Lilley hopes that the proposals, to be

introduced in a bill later this year, will be enough to rescue the agency, which was criticised last week by the parliamentary ombudsman.

Mr Lilley told the Commons: "The Child Support Agency has performed less well than I would wish, in spite of hard work by its staff." He said the adjustments should enable more absent parents to pay child maintenance regularly. "As a result, they will give more parents with care and their children the chance of a better life."

The reforms, which will be phased in over three years, include capping maintenance payments, giving extra help with travel and housing costs, and cash bonuses for mothers taking up work. From April absent parents will not have to pay more than 30 per cent of their net income on child maintenance. The maximum

level of maintenance now payable will also be halved.

Capital and property transactions made in clean-break settlements will be taken into account. Absent fathers will be given an extra allowance if they travel more than 15 miles to work, and the full allowance for housing costs for new partners and stepchildren.

From 1996-97 parents will have the right to appeal against their settlement, initially to the agency, and then to an independent Child Support Appeal Tribunal. But the most significant move is Mr Lilley's decision to defer the date when parents not on benefit are assessed. The Government's original intention was that parents who had had court settlements before 1993 would be assessed again from

Main changes, page 2

## Diamonds turn blue and the clubs are green

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE PACK of cards is about to explode into full colour, with each suit a different shade instead of the customary red and black.

In a break with tradition said to be aimed at short-sighted poker players in smoke-filled rooms, some American casino owners will begin playing with a four-coloured pack of cards next month in which hearts remain red and spades black, but diamonds become a distinctive blue and clubs an equally unmistakable green.

Nic Szeremeta, British representative of the Las Vegas-based *Card Player* magazine, said yesterday that the change was particularly relevant to a poker flush, in which five cards of the same suit is one of the better hands. "It will speed up play by enabling players to see much more clearly what hands the others are holding: as the casinos take a cut on every hand played, they are clearly interested in anything that speeds the game."

British card players paid grudging lip-service to a good idea yesterday, but gave little indication that they were

about to rush out and order multicoloured decks. Waddington's Games, the country's largest playing card manufacturer, said: "We produce many different designs of cards to order, but we have never been asked to produce packs with the suits in four different colours. Bridge players in particular seem very traditional in this respect."

Robert Sheehan, *The Times* bridge correspondent, agreed that it may be a decent idea. "People do occasionally play the wrong card, but the trouble with changing the colours is that the whole literature of

bridge would have to be rewritten."

John Graham, who also writes on bridge for *The Times* and who in private plays a mean poker hand, welcomed the idea of a four-colour pack. "As you get older and your eyesight falters, the small diamonds keep finding their way into the heart suits, and that can be very expensive."

The Americans' need for four-colour decks arises, it transpires, not from bridge but from a popular variety of poker known as Texas Hold'em, in which up to ten



players crowd round a table, often out of sharp eyesight range of the "flop" of cards being dealt.



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# Territorial squabbles keep to the pecking order



Eagle: "Feisty little chinstrap penguin"

JET-AGE intercontinental travel leaves us struggling to adjust. After Christmas your sketchwriter sped to Chile, then Antarctica. There he saw the whole gamut of polar life crowding the shores: teams of portly waddling mammals, full of self-importance, waving their flippers, squabbling in cliques, and guarding their territory.

But try as I might to see them as penguins, I kept seeing them as MPs. It took a week to accept them as wingless birds — and then it was time to go. Waving farewell to Antarctica your sketchwriter jetted in to London hours before the Commons sat yesterday.

And I looked down. There I saw teams of portly waddling

mammals, full of self-importance, waving their arms, squabbling over territory. Try as I might to see MPs I kept seeing penguins. Must another week pass before the shriek of the chinstrap penguin and the smell of guano fade from my thoughts at Westminster?

The chinstrap is the closest parallel: a chippy and cantankerous bird, the boomer-boy of the penguin community. But there are other parallels with MPs: in Antarctica, as in politics, plankton is the elemental form of life. Krill feed off plankton. Penguins feed off krill. Seals feed off penguins. Nobody much eats seals.

At Westminster too the plankton are where it all



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

starts. Yesterday David Croydon (C. Croydon NE), a retired computer consultant and sometime member of Croydon council, asked Social Security ministers to permit him to welcome their decision to cap housing benefit. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (C. Cirencester & Tewkesbury) was keen to welcome the reformed habitual residence test.

Never mock plankton, a primitive form of life but basis of the party food-chain and noble in their way. Where the current goes, there

will the plankton be. Nor should we mock the krill, a prawn-like being with rudimentary powers of self-propulsion.

Yesterday Peter Pike (Lab. Burley), admittedly a rather large prawn, was ritually outraged about Tory management of income support; while David Evennett (C. Erit & Crayford) was overjoyed that the Government's medical tests for incapacity were "seen to be fair and consistent".

Such expressions of opinion are habitually greeted

with supporting sighs of assent or dismay from the massed plankton, wriggles of excitement from other krill

And shrieks and pecks from the penguins. Yesterday Angela Eagle (Lab. Wallasey), a feisty little chinstrap, squawked at ministers that legions were being ripped off by occupational pensions, while John Marshall (C. Hendon S), a portly penguin, flipped his fellow-birds into a show of support for rent ceilings for housing benefit. Alan Duncan (C. Rutland & Melton), a trim bird, his beak a-jab, led the younger Tory chinstraps in an attack on Tony Blair's pension proposals.

The seals had seen it all

before. Down below the gangway, old buffers with tummies bask near-horizontal in the lights, whiskers a-twitch, emitting the occasional low bark as the debate (or dyspepsia) moves them.

Yesterday Sir Peter Emery (C. Honiton) kept a weather-eye open from his favourite rock next to Sir Edward Heath's reserved sand-patch. Labour has its ageing bull seals too (and cows) though of late Mr Hattersley has been missing from the beach.

But when those old boys want to settle a score or take a careless penguin they can move with astonishing speed and power. But mostly they daydream... Or do they?

## Prince's valet quits after admitting misconduct

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Prince of Wales's personal valet resigned last night after admitting "gross misconduct" by betraying his master's trust.

Ken Stronach, 53, loses his £12,000-a-year job, his grace and favour home in south London and his car.

St James's Palace also acted to gag Wendy Berry, a former Highgrove housekeeper, who was allegedly trying to sell more bedtime secrets from the Prince's household. An injunction banning her from making further revelations was obtained by the Prince's lawyers in the High Court yesterday, according to Henry Boyd-Carpenter of Farrer and Co, acting for the Prince. Mrs Berry was also ordered by the court to surrender all diaries and other manuscripts in her possession of the Prince's solicitors.

Mr Stronach, 53, loses his £12,000-a-year job, his grace and favour home in south London and his car. Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince's private secretary, began an inquiry into Mr Stronach's actions after intimate details of the affair between the Prince and Camilla Parker Bowles appeared in the *News of the World* on January 15. The inquiry concluded that the

sneak pictures, including one of a photograph of Mrs Parker Bowles at the Prince's bedside, and the revelations did not add up to a breach of security.

Mr Stronach, who did not receive a penny for his claims, is said to regret bitterly having gone to the *News of the World*. He has disputed statements attributed to him and incidents described in the newspaper.

The Prince's lawyers last week obtained a High Court injunction restraining Mr Stronach and his son, who was also involved in the failed deal with the paper, from making further revelations.

Mr Boyd-Carpenter said in a statement to PA News: "Disciplinary procedures against Mr Ken Stronach have proved unnecessary. Mr Stronach has accepted that his actions with respect to the articles in the *News of the World* of January 15 constituted gross misconduct under the terms of his contract.

"In view of his 16 years of previously unblemished loyal service, his resignation has been accepted. Mr Stronach has made a full apology to the Prince of Wales and has reiterated that he has received no payment whatsoever from the newspaper.

"Mr Stronach and Mr Ken Stronach Jr have agreed to give perpetual undertakings to the court not to commit any further breaches of Mr Stronach's confidentiality undertaking, and to account for any money they may receive."

The statement added: "The matter is now closed."

With regard to Mrs Berry, it said: "An interim court order has been made against Mrs Wendy Berry restraining her from any further discussion of her employment within the household of the Prince and Princess of Wales."

"Mrs Berry has been ordered by the court to surrender all diaries and other manuscripts in her possession to the Prince's solicitors. In addition an order will be sought requiring her to account for any money she may have received."



Stronach: made full apology to Prince



Jack and Wynne Johnson, left, Lee Clegg's stepfather and mother, and his stepmother and father Caroline and Stanley yesterday

## Split second that separates soldier from killer

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE Lee Clegg, who was sentenced to life for murdering a teenager travelling in a joyrider's car, denies turning from a professional soldier to a murderer within a split second.

Clegg, 26, a member of 3 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, thought he was opening fire on terrorists when he shot at a stolen Vauxhall Astra as it sped away from an Army checkpoint in republican West Belfast in September 1990. He believes he was acting in accordance with Army regulations when he fired four shots at the car to protect a fellow member of the patrol. The Army's rules of engagement say a soldier may open fire "whenever his own life or the lives of any other person may be at risk".

At Clegg's trial at Belfast Crown Court in 1993, Mr Justice Campbell accepted that the first three rounds were fired justifiably by Clegg because he believed the stolen car was being driven straight at Pte Aindow. But the judge

said the fourth shot could not be justified because it was fired when the car, and therefore the perceived threat to life, had passed.

Clegg was convicted of the murder of Karen Reilly, 18, one of three teenagers in the car. She died along with Martin Peake, 17, the car's driver, after the Astra was hit by at least 19 shots fired by the Army patrol after ignoring warnings to stop. Markiewicz Gorman, the third passenger

in the car, was injured in the arm.

Aindow was sentenced to seven years for the attempted murder of Mr Peake. He is now free after his sentence was reduced on appeal to four years for malicious wounding.

One of the most important elements of the Crown case was evidence from an RUC officer who had been on duty with the paratroopers. The police officer said their decision to open fire was "totally

unjustified" because nobody in the patrol had been in danger.

The officer said that after the shooting he allegedly heard one soldier being told: "Get down, you're it." He then allegedly saw another soldier stamp on his leg to make it appear that he had been hit by the car.

Mr Justice Campbell said Clegg had set out on the patrol to maintain law and order, and he had not intended to kill

anyone unlawfully. But the judge added: "He was suddenly faced with a car driving through an Army checkpoint and, being armed with a high-velocity rifle to enable him to combat the threat of terrorism, he decided to fire the fourth shot in circumstances which cannot be justified."

Five Law Lords last week rejected an appeal by Clegg to have his conviction for murder reduced to manslaughter. The Law Lords said that while a person acting in self-defence, or a police officer arresting an offender, had a choice about the degree of force used, a soldier serving in Northern Ireland had "no scope for graduated force".

Clegg's family are comparing the case with that of Private Ian Thain, the only other soldier to be convicted of murder while serving in Northern Ireland. In 1985 Pte Thain was sentenced to life for killing a man in West Belfast in 1983. He served 26 months and then rejoined his regiment.

MPs demand release, page 1  
Leading article, page 19  
Photograph, page 22

## MPs demand para's release

Continued from page 1  
ning that the round recovered from the girl's body was Clegg's. There was no vigorous testing of this evidence by the defence.

Mr McKay said they were also asking Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to use special powers to order an early, if not immediate release, for Clegg.

The Northern Ireland Office last night issued a statement detailing powers which

could lead to Clegg's early release. He still comes under the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Office because he has been transferred from the Province on a temporary basis.

The department said that Sir Patrick had the power to refer Clegg's conviction to the Court of Appeal if he considered there was new evidence which could render his conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory. The Northern Ireland Office added that even if the

conviction stood, Sir Patrick had the power to free Clegg at any time.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Gray, who was Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment until 1993, said last night that he was writing to General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the General Staff, raising all the issues surrounding the case.

Leading article, and  
Letters, page 19  
Photograph, page 22

## CSA reforms help middle classes

Continued from page 1  
April 1996. Under the new bill, that date will be repeated and no further date is expected to be given.

The Social Security Department said last night that the date would be kept under review, fuelling speculation that these parents — mainly from the middle classes — would never be chased up by the agency.

The agency has collected £473 million since 1993, by making 400,000 assessments and tracing 58,000 absent

fathers. The new measures, however, will cost £50 million this year, rising to £110 million in each of the subsequent years, considerably reducing the net savings to the Exchequer.

The reforms, which go beyond proposals suggested by the all-party social security select committee last year, were broadly welcomed by Conservative MPs last night.

Anthony Steen (C South Hants) said the statement was "first rate". To Opposition jeers, he added: "It does show that this side of the House not only listens to what the public says, but acts on what it hears."

Donald Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said there "would be no trench warfare" but accused Mr Lilley of "complacency writ large" for not acting sooner. "The tragedy is that reforms which might have made an impact 18 months ago will now have to contend with the bitterness that has built up in the system."

Pressure groups hailed some of the changes although some complained that they did not go far enough. Michael Jarman, director of child care at the children's charity Barnardo's, said the changes were a "wasted opportunity" and would not benefit the

poorest children. "Absent fathers were the most vocal lobby against the Child Support Agency and the Government has listened to their views," he said. "But I am disappointed that Mr Lilley has not given equal consideration to the concerns of lone mothers."

Network, an organisation that has campaigned against the CSA, said it was disappointed. "The changes will mean an awful lot more work for an agency which has already shown it cannot handle the information and has an 80 per cent failure rate. We wait with interest to see how they perform."

### THE WHITE PAPER: MAIN POINTS

The main proposals in the White Paper *Improving Child Support*

■ From 1997 parents to have a limited right of appeal against assessment as a safety valve in genuine hardship cases.

■ Date on which CSA to take on parents who are not on benefit postponed indefinitely.

■ From April 1995 no absent parent will have to pay more than 30 per cent of his net income in child maintenance.

■ Property and capital "clean-break" settlements before April 1993 will be taken into account. This assumes that ex-partners were entitled to half any equity worth more than £5,000.

■ Allowances will be given for high travel costs. Up a mile if over 15 miles, and housing costs for second family will be paid in full.

■ Maximum level of maintenance payable under the formula to be almost halved.

Better off parents, now paying up to £400 a week, will in future pay a maximum of £250.

■ From April 1997 mothers on benefit will be able to build up maintenance credit. £5 a week, to be paid as lump sum — maximum £1,000 — if they get a job.

■ Those on family credit and disability working allowance will be compensated for loss of maintenance from above changes.

## 'Iranian was behind Lockerbie'

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE Lockerbie bombing was financed by a hardline Iranian figure, Ayatollah Mohtashemi, according to a declassified document from the United States National Security Agency.

An Iranian-backed terrorist group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, was initially thought to be responsible for the attack, which killed 270 people in December 1988. However, after a long investigation, this theory was dropped and two Libyan intelligence officers were charged with the attack.

The National Security Agency document dated March 1991 refers to Lockerbie and Ayatollah Mohtashemi, the former Iranian Interior Minister who founded the Lebanese Hezbollah. It says he had "recently paid \$10 million" to two terrorist organisations, the Abu Abbas and Abu Nidal groups. The document goes on to say that he "paid the same amount to bomb Pan Am Flight 103 in retaliation for the US shoot-down of the Iranian Airbus".

## Big companies find civil justice takes too long

BY FRANCES GIBBS  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BIG firms back Lord Woolf's proposals to cut the cost and delay of civil justice by curbing barristers' speeches and limiting the length of trials, a new survey has found.

The survey of British companies who use the civil courts found that many support a shift away from the focus on oral advocacy in civil trials. They want judges, not the parties to the dispute, to control the pace of proceedings and to determine how long cases should take. More than 60 per cent of the firms favoured a paper trial instead of one based on oral argument and evidence; and a substantial majority wanted control of the timetable of cases given to a "procedural" judge. The ideas are among those floated by Lord Woolf, the Law Lord appointed by the Lord Chancellor to inquire into civil justice.

The survey also found that nearly all the companies felt that finding a way to end their dispute in the litigation process was more important than a guaranteed day in court.



Woolf: proposals backed by British firms

Four in five said that the system — and judges — could do more to facilitate settlements before cases reached court.

The survey, commissioned by the City law firm Herbert Smith, is published to coincide with a seminar today on civil justice. Drawn from a sample of the top 400 companies in *The Times* Top 1,000, it found widespread criticism of the length, complexity and cost of civil justice. "A substantial majority (70 per cent) suggested the whole system takes too long, whilst almost 40 per cent suggest the costs of litigation

are far too high," the survey found. The largest firms were particularly critical of the length of civil litigation; nearly all said it needed to be changed. About half the companies in the survey considered that the time taken, and the costs involved, represented a substantial barrier to taking a case to court.

Although 66 per cent of the banks were not satisfied with the system, 77 per cent of insurance companies were satisfied. Charles Plant, head of litigation at Herbert Smith, said: "Could it be that insurance companies who generally are involved for the defendant are able to use the cost and delay of the system to their advantage whereas banks may more often be the plaintiffs?"

Law, pages 35 and 37

A photograph that appeared in *Passport to France* (January 6) was of the village of Lambec, and not, as the caption incorrectly stated, Rognez. We apologise for the error.

### ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

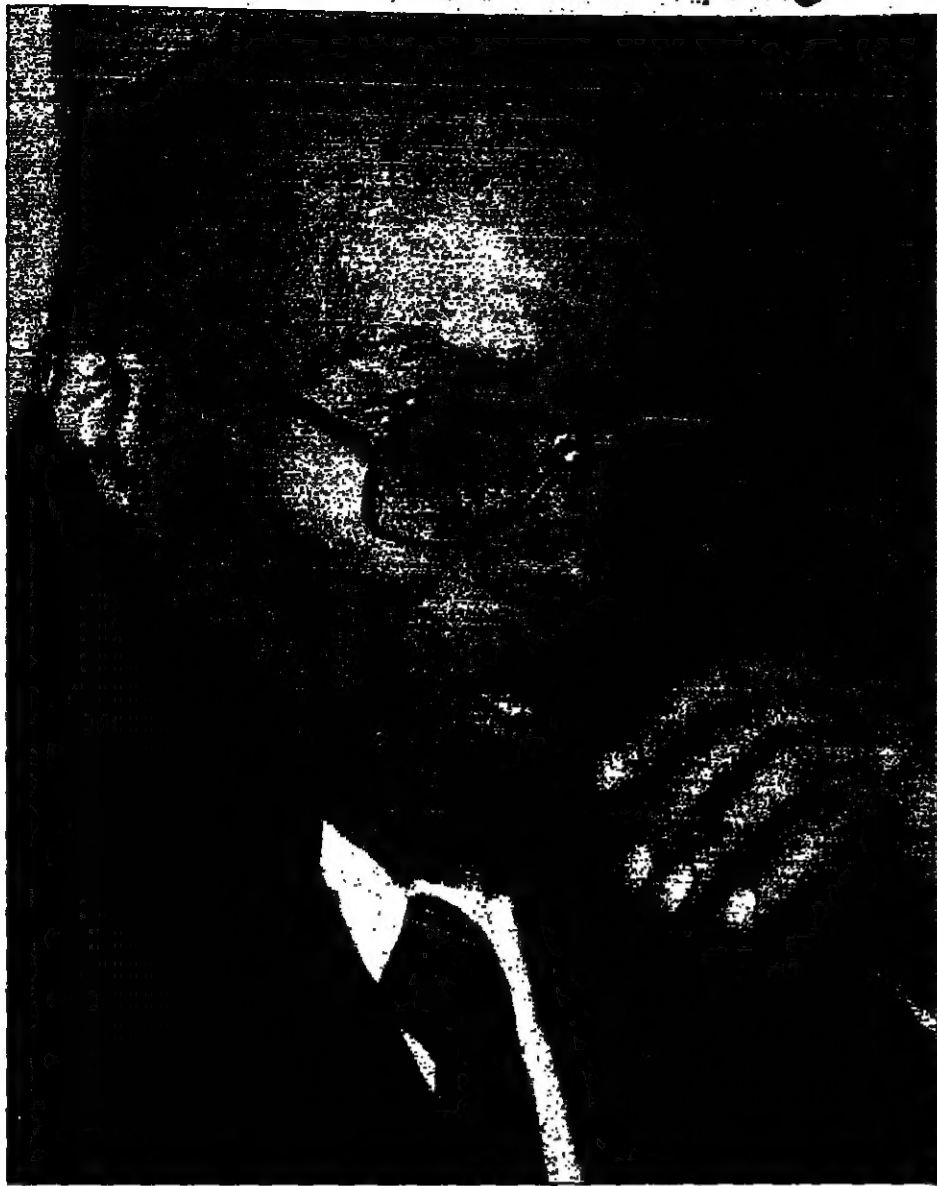
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Inquest opens on 23 Britons killed when law enforcement officers ended cult siege

# Father of family lured to Waco predicted disaster



Sam Henry: "I warned them that they were on the path to destruction"

By KATE ALDERSON

A MAN whose wife and five children were burnt to death in the raid on the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, told an inquest that he had warned his family that involvement with the cult would lead to their destruction.

Sam Henry, speaking on the first day of the inquest into the deaths of the 23 Britons who died in Waco in April 1993, said David Koresh had lured his family from Britain. "I warned them that they were on the path to destruction but they wouldn't listen, they tried to convert me," Mr Henry, 58, told Leonard Gorodkin, the Manchester Coroner.

The inquest on the 23, aged 6 to 60, will hear detailed evidence of how the camp's inhabitants died. Seventy-five Koresh followers died in the inferno at the end of a 51-day siege and Koresh was found shot through the head.

The coroner said there had been no full public hearing into the events surrounding Waco. Mr Gorodkin became involved after the first bodies returned to Britain arrived at Manchester airport. Ten were from the Manchester area, six from London, six from Nottinghamshire and one from Preston.

Mr Henry said that Diana, 26, one of his three daughters, was introduced to the cult by John McBean, her boyfriend, who also died in the fire. She left her university studies in Britain in 1988 to follow Koresh, then known as Vernon Howells, to Waco.

Mr Henry visited his daughter a year later and was



Mr Henry and his wife Zilla surrounded by their children Pauline, left, Phillip, Stephen, Diana and Vanessa

introduced to Howells. He said he was "immediately and instinctively wary" of Howells, who tried to persuade him to join the sect. Mr Henry told him he would remain a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. "He became almost hysterical," Mr Henry said. "He threatened to whip me. I told him the Bible had warned of false prophets and he was one."

In April 1990 his wife, other two daughters and two sons told him they were leaving for Waco. "There was no warning," Mr Henry said. After further trips to the camp, his family, including his wife Zilla, 55, remained there. By March 1992 the whole family were avid followers living in Waco and, according to Mr Henry, brainwashed.

The family became obsessed with the notion of Koresh as

"the Messiah". Mr Henry said: "They were told by David Koresh that they were not holy enough to pray to God. Koresh was the mediator between God and man."

Koresh told Mr Henry that he did not love his family if he did not join them. Mr Henry's

final contact was a conversation with his son five weeks before the raid.

"It was Phillip who I talked with and I said, 'You have called me a fool for not joining you but sooner or later you will realise that your father is not a fool as you all made me

out to be'." Within the Waco compound followers were regularly physically punished, Mr Henry said, and he had heard of children being abused. One of his sons had been whipped on his bare bottom by Koresh, Mr Henry said.

Koresh planned to die in 1993, Mr Henry said, and intended taking his followers with him. Mr Henry warned the US authorities and the Waco police of a potential massacre. "But their intervention was a destruction," he said.

Detective Chief Superintendent Albert Yates of Greater Manchester Police, who has led the investigation into the British deaths, said the raid was doomed to failure. "It had very little, if any, chance of success," he said. The hearing is expected to last five days.



The Waco inferno, where Mr Henry's family died

## Man accused of poisoning tonic water 'sympathised with victims'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of lacing supermarket tonic water with the poison atropine sympathised later with some of his alleged victims, the High Court in Edinburgh was told yesterday. Paul Agutter's wife was among the alleged victims, and he told one couple that he felt guilty because he had bought the drink that affected her.

"He said he felt terribly guilty because he had been the only person who did the shopping, and had poured the drinks out,"

Elizabeth Sharwood-Smith said. She also told the jury that Mr Agutter, a biochemistry lecturer, discussed atropine with her husband, a consultant anaesthetist, and concentrations of the poison after visiting their home.

Her husband had previously suspected an atropine-like substance might be responsible for the poisoning and was angry that nothing had been done about his suspicion that tonic water was involved. Mr Agutter told him: "Don't worry, you did everything you could," she said.

Mr Agutter, of Achnacloch, Edinburgh, denies trying to kill his wife and a girl aged 11 by giving them gin and tonic laced with atropine, a derivative of deadly nightshade. He also denies endangering the lives of eight people who drank spiked tonic water that he allegedly put on shelves at a Sainsbury store in Edinburgh in August.

The trial, before Lord Morison, was told that Mr Agutter had financial problems and was suicidal over the break-up of his marriage. Also, he was under pressure to marry his girlfriend, Dr Ross Langlands told the

court that ten days before the alleged poisoning of his wife, Mr Agutter had telephoned in great distress. The GP reported that his patient was "incoherent, deeply distressed and weepy", and he immediately went to his home because he thought he might be contemplating suicide.

There, Mr Agutter told him about his difficulties as a result of a financial settlement with his wife, Alexandra. Dr Langlands said the marriage was effectively over but the couple were staying together under the same roof for the sake of their child. The GP suggested

Mr Agutter contact a solicitor and the marriage guidance charity Relate. After 90 minutes he seemed much calmer and his GP noted that he seemed to believe "life was worth living".

A week after seeing his GP, Mr Agutter was spotted acting suspiciously in the Sainsbury store at Hunter's Trust, Edinburgh, by Jonathan Dearden, a student who stocked shelves. Mr Dearden, 21, told the court that Mr Agutter had bottles of tonic water hidden under a jacket in his trolley and he saw him put two bottles back on the shelf. Mr Dearden as-

sumed that Mr Agutter was shoplifting and reported him to a store detective.

Mrs Sharwood-Smith, 46, told how she became ill after pouring herself a Martini and tonic. Her 18-year-old son Andrew drank a glass of the tonic. "I began to be unable to eat the meal. I couldn't chew or swallow. Andrew felt the same way. I felt very unwell for the rest of the evening," she said. Two days later they again drank tonic water. Half an hour later Mrs Sharwood-Smith, she said, she felt very unwell and when her husband returned he called a

doctor and they were admitted to hospital.

Marie Mason, 52, told the court that after she drank some tonic water she began to feel unwell and fell over when she was getting undressed. Later she could not sit up and her husband had to help her out of bed. She felt very thirsty and drank more tonic the following day. Her vision started to become affected and she started talking gibberish. Initially when admitted to hospital the doctors believed she was showing symptoms of alcohol abuse.

The trial continues.

## Boy admits part in Florida killing

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGER accused of shooting dead a British tourist during a bungled robbery at a motorway rest area in Florida pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder yesterday and may face a 40-year prison sentence.

Aundra Atkins, 16, was accused of firing the shot that killed Gary Colley, 34, a mechanical engineer from Bradford, in the attack in September 1993. Mr Colley's companion, Margaret Jagger, was wounded in the attack, which happened as the couple slept in a rental car during a journey from New Orleans to south Florida.

The plea agreement was reached less than an hour before jury selection was set to begin for Atkins. He admitted charges of murder and at-

tempted first-degree murder in the wounding of Ms Jagger. Atkins was one of four youths charged with murder and becomes the third teenager to plead to lesser charges.

The first trial of John "Billy Joe" Crumitie, 18, ended in a split jury in November. As part of Atkins' plea bargain, he agreed to testify against Crumitie at a retrial due to begin on March 20.

One of the most crucial pieces of evidence against Atkins will be the eyewitness testimony of Ms Jagger, who identified him in a police line-up last summer. Shortly after the killing, she failed to pick Atkins or Crumitie from police photographs. In a five-line-up about nine months later, she failed to identify Crumitie but picked Atkins.



Margaret Jagger and Gary Colley

## Soldier left out with broken neck

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG soldier with a broken neck was mangled and left out in the cold overnight with devastating consequences, despite desperate pleas for medical attention, the High Court was told yesterday. David Inker, 27, was left wheelchair-bound for life after a night of "unrestrained drinking" by soldiers in the Royal Army Medical Corps, the court was told.

A piece of horseplay backfired when a 15-stone colleague leapt upon Mr Inker, breaking his neck, his counsel, Christopher Gardner, QC, said. He was "cursory examined" before being placed on a groundsheet, wearing only a sports jacket, T-shirt and trousers, "to endure a long night of cold and fear." He pleaded for medical attention but was left alone, cold and paralysed, Mr Gardner said.

Mr Inker, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, is seeking compensation from the Ministry of Defence. He was 19 and had been in the RAMC for three months when his unit was sent on exercise to Craig-y-Dinas, Gwynedd, the court was told.

On the evening of July 12, 1987, Mr Inker and his colleagues visited the Dinas Rock Hotel. Mr Gardner told the court: "During the evening there was heavy and unrestrained drinking, although

Mr Inker did not drink alcohol." On his return to camp Mr Inker saw a fellow soldier, Private Johns, asleep on the tailboard of a lorry. As a prank he released the chain supporting the tailboard, tipping the soldier on to the ground. A chase ensued and Private Johns leapt upon his fellow soldier, landing on him with his full 15 stone weight, said counsel.

On the ground, Mr Inker realised "to his horror" that his legs were bent when they felt as though they were stretched. "He believed that he had broken his neck. He was in fact correct," Mr Gardner said. The Troop Sergeant, Sgt Foster, who arrived on the scene, believed he was drunk, he added.

"He ordered the recruits to take David Inker by the armpits, stand him up and then let go. He collapsed again and his head and neck came into contact with the ground. 'We say that he caused him to be handled in a way that defies belief and can only be explained by excessive consumption of alcohol by Troop Sergeant Foster'."

The Ministry of Defence admits negligence on the part of Sergeant Foster but denies Mr Inker's injury was exacerbated by the handling he received. The hearing continues.

## Man claims against 'sexist' council

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MAN claims to be the victim of sexual discrimination after being rejected for 11 jobs by a council that is taking "positive action" to recruit more women.

Deanis Hopkins, 58, told an industrial tribunal that he and his son had been turned down by Labour-controlled Norwich council because it operates a positive discrimination policy, with many training positions advertised as "opportunities for women". The former council car-park attendant said that in the past 18 months he had applied for posts ranging from information assistant to purchasing clerk.

"My applications over such a long period were refused because there is a clear preference for females," he said.

The tribunal was told that the council had a "positive action" jobs policy called Springboard, under which women were trained in jobs where they were often under-represented, such as building and bricklaying.

However, Mr Hopkins, of Northfields, Norwich, claims that the council has no equivalent policy towards men in traditionally female jobs such as clerical work. The tribunal was told that on one occasion Mr Hopkins's 18-year-old son had applied for an advertised post to be trained as a bricklayer or builder. "But my son was told that he could not have a form because he was male," Mr Hopkins said.

Mrs Brenda Hones, a senior personnel officer for the council, said that the council did want to recruit more

women. "We are trying to get a gender balance at all levels," she said. "At Chief Officer level, for instance, there are a lot more men than women." Asked by Mr Hopkins if there were similar plans to correct the imbalance in areas where more women were employed, Mrs Hones replied: "No."

Mr Hopkins said that after 18 months in a temporary post as a car-park assistant he applied for it to be made permanent. He did not get the job and was later removed from the council's temporary employment register.

Mrs Hones said that Mr Hopkins's contract had not been extended because the council had difficulty getting him to return clothing and accounts books after his contract had ended. The tribunal continues.

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## School tests results

# One third of pupils is backward in core subjects at 14

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ONE in three 14-year-olds has fallen behind in English, mathematics and science, according to government test results published yesterday. One in four pupils aged seven has not mastered the basics.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said the findings were worrying evidence of widespread failure in state schools. He singled out the primary sector and said teachers must work harder to raise expectations to ensure children were equipped with the literacy and numeracy skills needed later.

The Education Department

statistics show girls consistently outperforming boys. The gap was widest in English — particularly at 14 — with girls well ahead at mathematics, and fractionally in front in science. The figures are based on national curriculum tests taken last summer by about 300,000 seven-year-olds and 130,000 14-year-olds in schools which defied the boycott by the National Union of Teachers.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said the results provided clear national benchmarks against which schools and parents could measure standards. However,

ever, Mrs Shephard, who is anxious to rebuild the Government's relations with teachers, refused to offer any analysis or interpretation of the results.

Mr Blunkett said the figures highlighted the importance of building foundations for learning in primary schools. "It is crucial that all those in education work together to create a culture of achievement and high standards."

More than three quarters of seven-year-olds achieved the standard expected of a typical pupil in mathematics, English and science. Some 19 per cent were well ahead. Teachers, who also assessed classwork, judged their pupils' progress to be slightly faster when compared with test results.

The tests found that a fifth of seven-year-olds fell short of the expected standard in reading and arithmetic. Pupils had to read aloud passages from set books and to calculate sums such as seven minus three, or 12 plus 6.

Marks were lower in spelling and writing tests, with just over a quarter struggling with words such as "teacher", "night", "friend" and "mother". At 14, fewer than two-thirds of pupils reached the expected level. Some 42 per cent fell short in English, 40 per cent in mathematics and 36 per cent in science.

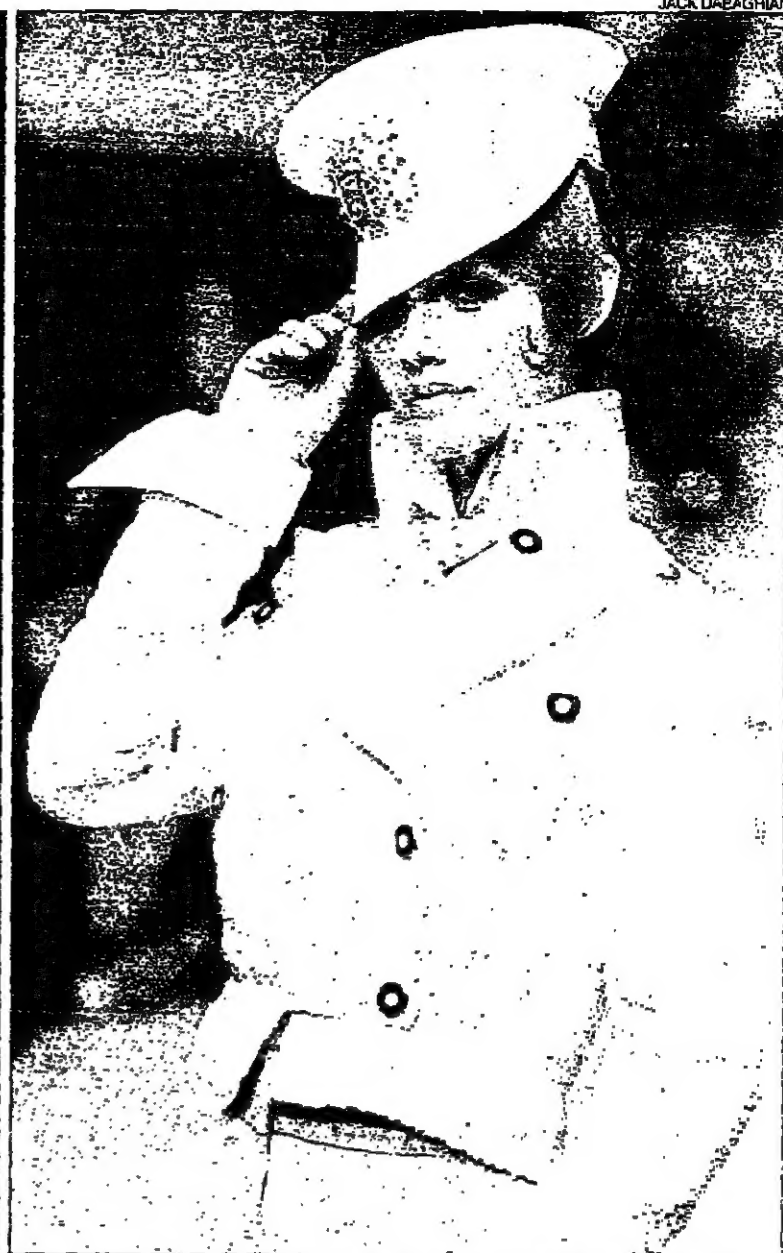
Almost three quarters of girls reached the expected standard in English, compared with just over half of boys. Some 14 per cent of pupils performed exceptionally well, with 2 per cent already at the standard required for a GCSE grade C and a few surpassing that.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that roughly the same proportion of pupils did better than was "typical" in English and mathematics as did worse. He said: "If you set a test to gauge average performance, the laws of mathematics dictate that you will get a certain proportion above and a certain proportion below. It is ridiculous to talk of children as young as seven, or more likely six and a half, as 'failing' to learn the basics. They are still learning."

The increase in the number of pupils aged seven to 14 falling behind in their studies will add weight to criticisms of primary schools by government inspectors. Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, will challenge the dominance of progressive teaching methods in primaries in a speech on Thursday.



At the Paris collections, the Italian designer Valentino dressed model-turned-actress Elle MacPherson, left, in a black and white slinky polka dot dress, with white lace bustier. Jean-Louis Scherrer presented a Victorian military Eton-style jacket with high-collared shirt and white cap



## Opt-out schools raise fears over charitable status

By BEN PRESTON

GRANT-maintained schools are demanding assurances about the Labour Party's threat to restrict charitable status. Head teachers will raise the issue at meetings next month with David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary.

There is concern that opt-out schools might be affected by Labour's decision to consider scrapping the charitable status of private schools in an attempt to end financial privilege. The question threatens to strain already difficult relations between the existing 1,000 grant-maintained schools and Labour, which wants to bring them back under some form of local authority control.

Labour is reviewing the position of more than 1,200 private schools registered as charities, a status worth at least £42.5 million in tax-breaks and savings on business rates. The move, however, has caused uncertainty for grant-maintained schools who receive special status by law when they leave council control. Most council schools do not enjoy charitable status.

John McIntosh, headmaster of the London Oratory School, the grant-maintained school where Tony Blair has decided to send his son, said he was anxious and confused by Labour's plans. He said: "If we have money taken away, it is inevitable that pupils will miss out." Mr McIntosh said that charitable



Blunkett: review covers independent schools

status allowed grant-maintained schools to claim back the tax from covenanted donations to appeals for projects such as new buildings. He said that charitable status was worth more than £10,000 to London Oratory last year.

Sir Bob Balchin, of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said "Grant-maintained schools value their charitable status enormously. Head teachers are very concerned about the possible threat to their position in the light of Labour's attitude to the independent sector."

A spokesman for Mr Blunkett said the party's review of charitable status was limited to independent schools and did not cover state schools. He said any concerns among grant-maintained schools could be raised at the scheduled meetings.

## Police seek truants to trace killer

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE believe that pupils playing truant at the Cardiff school attended by Claire Hood, the murdered 15-year-old, may have clues about her last hours and yesterday announced an amnesty to persuade them to come forward.

They also want to contact two men with an airgun seen by a man walking his dog in woods where she died. They are regarded as possible witnesses but police are puzzled they have not come forward.

Police were at Rumney High School yesterday seeking to identify pupils who played truant on the day she disappeared. They also visited a neighbouring school. Claire was sexually assaulted and left in undergrowth near a path through woods on the St Mellons estate.

Detective Superintendent Colin Jones said yesterday that pupils had nothing to fear by coming forward. "If any of her friends know where Claire was going they could help us catch the killer," he said.

## Stable lad who shot fiancée had been jailed for attacks on ex-wife

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JILTED stable lad was found guilty yesterday of shooting and kidnapping a woman jockey after she ended their engagement. Barry Pearson, 33, shot Madeleine Smith, his former fiancée, in the leg before keeping her hostage on a 140-mile drive to the flat they once shared.

He did not telephone for help for Miss Smith until five hours after the shooting and she was so seriously injured that she still needs plastic surgery.

After the jury at Teesside Crown Court returned its verdict it emerged that Pearson had already served a jail sentence for a similar incident involving his former wife eight years ago. He was jailed at Stafford Crown Court for three years

for threatening to kill his wife with a carving knife and wrecking their home. She had to barricade herself and her three children aged one to four, in a bedroom at her home in Cannock, Staffordshire, while her ex-husband kept police at bay for three hours with a knife.

The court had heard that he was "jealously in love with his former wife. He had admitted threatening to kill her, assaulting her sister and a police inspector. He also admitted two attacks on his wife's home, tearing her clothes, smashing 40 window panes and hurling tiles from the roof causing £5,000 damage."

He was convicted yesterday of kidnapping Miss Smith, unlawful wounding and of having a firearm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on June 12

last year. He had already admitted unlawful possession of the shotgun. He was remanded for psychiatric reports.

Pearson, from Grantham, Lincolnshire, threatened to kill Miss Smith after she ended their four-year relationship in November 1993. He tried to run her down in his car and held a knife at her throat before arranging a farewell meeting to return her belongings. Instead he produced a shotgun and fired it as she tried to get into her car at East Wymon near Ripon, North Yorkshire. Pearson claimed he had intended to kill himself in front of Miss Smith and that it had gone off accidentally.

Miss Smith said after the trial: "My injuries are horrendous. My leg looks like an apple when someone has taken a bite."

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John Birt, left, will lobby Jacques Santer to help to protect the work of public-service broadcasters

## BBC appeals to Santer for help

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BIRT is to defend the BBC's role at a meeting with the President of the European Commission in the run-up to next month's G7 conference on information superhighways.

The corporation's director-general wants to ensure that national and international regulators take account of the importance of public-service broadcasters when framing rules for multi-media regulation. The BBC also wants to improve the free circulation of broadcast material between nations and is seeking financial support from the EC to improve subtitling and distribution systems.

Mr Birt is keen to ensure that the BBC has a say in all aspects of the EC's audiovisual policy, particularly digital broadcasting and viewer subscription systems. His meetings in Brussels with Jacques Santer, the new President, Sir Leon Brittan, the Commissioner for External Relations, and Marcelino Oreja, the new Audio-Visual Commissioner, will follow the launch on Thursday of two pan-European BBC satellite channels. The channels, one for news and the other for entertainment, will not be available in Britain and will be funded by advertising and subscription revenue.

EC policy on the audiovisual sector is of vital importance to the BBC, which is by far the biggest producer of programmes in Europe and the biggest exporter of television shows to America. Mr Birt will be accompanied in Brussels by senior executives including Bob Phillips, the deputy director-general, Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC network television, and Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC radio.

Ministers from the seven industrial nations that make up the G7 group will attend the superhighways conference on February 24.



Military commanders use computers to train for front line without getting cold, wet or frightened

# Army beats retreat over armoured exercises

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Army is turning to "virtual reality" computer programmes to train its commanders for battle because of a shortage of land suitable for full-scale exercises. In five years, it will have a special combined arms tactical trainer that will allow an officer to experience the realities of battle "without getting wet, cold or frightened", according to MoD sources. The computers are helping to fill the gap created at the end of the Cold War when countries such as Germany banned large-scale exercises.

British troop numbers there have fallen from 55,000 in 1989 to 23,000. The last divisional exercise involving more than 25,000 soldiers was held more than five years ago and Army chiefs accept that that size of exercise will probably never happen again.

Since the German ban the British Army has been unable to find any comparable land to mount armoured exercises of its own. Financial and environmental pressures were in danger of depriving many senior officers of the experience of commanding a big formation of tanks and guns.

The simulators will have a special terrain database, enabling a commander to look into a vast world generated by computer and lead his men and tanks into battle in any environment from deserts to snow-covered plains. The computers cost about £500,000, compared with £25 million a week for a divisional-size exercise.

The largest armoured formation still able to exercise is a battle group — about 1,000 soldiers, 30 tanks, 32 Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles and artillery support. Britain is the only country in

Europe still training at battle group level.

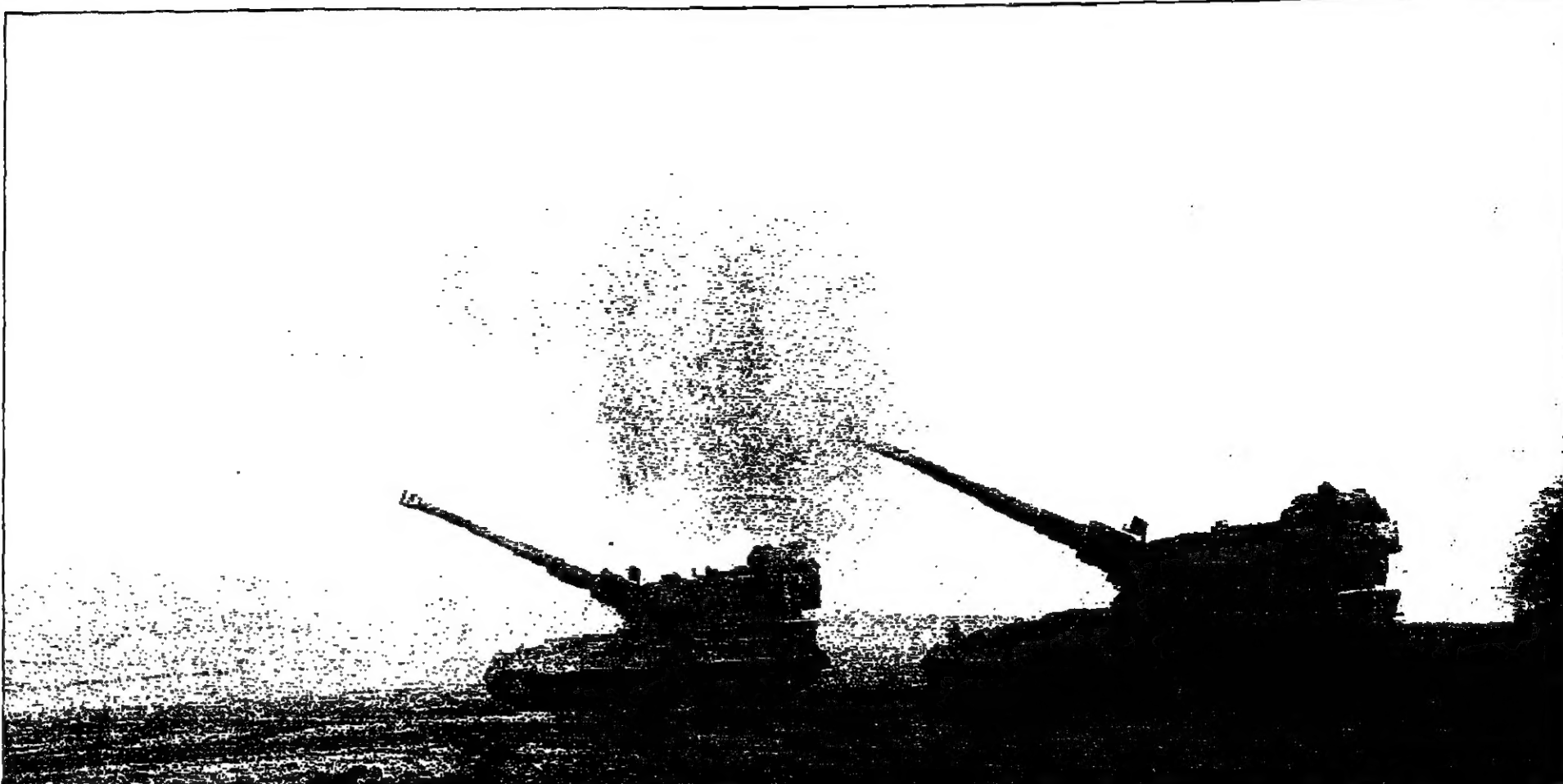
However, such exercises can be run only on Salisbury Plain and at the Suffield training area in Canada. At times, American training grounds in southern Germany and at Fort Lewis in America have also been used by British troops. With the number of tanks and heavy guns based in Britain doubling from 500 in 1992 to 1,000 next year, the Army is looking for more sites abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Morocco for the use of land for training. However, the agreement covers only company-size exercises of about 200 soldiers.

One Army officer said it was vital to get the balance right between simulated computer-generated exercises and the real thing. "The Americans, who are five years ahead of us in the use of simulators, have discovered that if commanders become too dependent on computer-generated battle-field scenarios, they lose their intuitive skills. They still need to give orders when they are cold, tired and frightened."

But computers can also reveal instantly what goes wrong in an exercise. As one Army officer put it, in a real field exercise, an armoured vehicle turning right instead of left and blocking a bridge could hold up a whole exercise for hours. "You don't get that with a simulator," he said.

Advanced technology has also enabled soldiers, such as Challenger tank gunners, to learn the basic skills in a simulator before being let loose on the ranges with live ammunition that costs £1,000 a round.



A new self-propelled gun is tested on Salisbury Plain. The Army hopes to sign agreements with countries in central and eastern Europe to use their training areas

## Legacy of winter manoeuvres alarms ecologists

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to increase military exercises on Salisbury Plain and to build facilities for heavy guns on training grounds in Northumberland are alarming ecologists and ecologists.

The Ministry of Defence, with some 600,000 acres of land at its disposal, is the country's biggest landowner after the Forestry Commission. Its estate includes 20 per cent of Northumberland National Park, 15 per cent of Dartmoor National Park and more than 200,000 sites classified as being of "special scientific interest".

Environmentalists freely acknowledge that one by-product of the Army's presence has been the preservation of countryside that might otherwise have been built over, ploughed up or covered with commercial conifer plantations. Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, the Army's main train-

ing ground since 1897, contains 41 per cent of Britain's remaining unimproved chalk grassland, a habitat that has contracted greatly over the past 50 years as more land has been used to grow crops.

The plain is home to 10 per cent of the 160 pairs of stone curlews still breeding in Britain and is thought to support up to 20 per cent of the 200 pairs of quails that nest here. Rare plants and invertebrates include the tuberous thistle and the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. Some 7,000 acres of land forming a cordon sanitaire round Porton Down, have, paradoxically, become a sanctuary for butterflies and rare orchids while scientists in the laboratories there test the effects of chemical and biological weapons on mice and monkeys.

Russell Wright, conservation officer for English Nature in Wiltshire, said: "Chalk



### MoD stops night tests of new gun

Robert Key, left, Conservative MP for Salisbury, and other local MPs have successfully intervened between people living near Salisbury Plain, whose sleep has been disturbed by explosions, and the Ministry of Defence. Reverberations from test firings of the Army's new AS90 artillery gun have been

heard 30 miles away, toppling furniture. But the Army yesterday agreed to limit tests of the £1 million 155mm ordnance to 30-minute daylight trials after Mr Key and fellow local MPs, Michael Ancram, De Vries, and David Faber, Westbury, put their constituents' case to the MoD.

grassland is best maintained by sheep or cattle grazing. Tracked vehicles perform a similar function, keeping the sward open and preventing scrub encroachment. The ruts and bare ground, and shell holes left by gunnery practice, support communities of wild flowers that would be crowded out elsewhere.

This mutually beneficial relationship is now shifting. Concern arose after manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain in the

exceptionally wet winter of 1993-94, which involved 3,500 soldiers and 1,000 armoured vehicles. Tanks cut tracks up to 100 yards wide into the sward and ran over many archaeological sites.

A survey by English Heritage found damage, much of it irreparable, to a third of a random sample of 30 sites, among them Neolithic burial mounds and the remains of Roman and Saxon settlements and field systems. The

Army is now laying stone-surfaced roads and agreed not to use tracked vehicles this winter between November and March.

Roy Canham, county archaeologist for Wiltshire, said: "The roads will help to restrict the damage but the Army will still want freedom of manoeuvre, and I doubt if they will be willing to limit their wet-weather training every winter."

mental study published by the Army last November suggested that Salisbury Plain could sustain a doubling of tracked mileage. But English Nature, the Government's chief adviser on conservation, says there is no scientific basis for such a claim and believes any increase could cause unacceptable damage.

Next month, the Ministry of Defence will submit plans to train five regiments of the 19th Mechanised Brigade in live firing of self-propelled 42mm AS-90 howitzers and multiple rocket launchers on the Otterburn Training Area, about 80 square miles of heather moorland and wild hill country in Northumberland National Park.

As part of the scheme, the Army, which has owned the land since 1911, plans to build 22 gun stands, a vehicle maintenance area and housing for 750 men, and to turn 30 miles of moorland track into tar-mac-surfaced roads.

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### DJ beaten to death in 'cash card robbery'

A MAN may have been beaten to death for his cash card as he tried to withdraw money from a hole-in-the-wall machine.

Adam Brown, 23, a disc jockey, was found in a bookshop doorway a few yards from an automated teller machine at a branch of the TSB in Newcastle upon Tyne. He had massive brain damage. He died when doctors turned off life-support systems in hospital last Friday.

Detective Superintendent John Renwick said yesterday that Mr Brown's bank card was inserted at 2.44am on Thursday, less than two hours before his body was found. "Either Mr Brown put the card in and was attacked before he could tap in his code, or someone else tried to put the card in without knowing the correct numbers."

He said that Mr Brown, who was single, had been to nightclubs alone and was seen on videotape recordings made by surveillance cameras. His wallet was missing and there was no evidence of a weapon having been used.

### Dentist accused of killing pensioner

AN ELDERLY woman died at the dentist after he gave her four times the recommended dose of anaesthetic, it was alleged yesterday.

Marie Everett went to have 28 teeth extracted but collapsed from heart failure, said Nigel Baker, QC, for the prosecution. There was "the plainest evidence" of gross negligence, he told Stafford Crown Court. Stephen Stuart, 46, of Moore, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, denies manslaughter.

Mr Baker said: "He failed to consider her age, her anxiety and her angina and on top of that simply gave her far more anaesthetic than he should have done."

Mrs Everett, 68, of Market Drayton, had had two teeth extracted earlier and in January 1993 went to have the remaining 28 teeth removed. The local anaesthetic was injected over 20 minutes. "She started to twitch which turned into convulsions. She was in a bad way," Mr Baker said. "Ambulance men tried electric shock treatment and tried to stimulate her heart three times but there was no positive effect." The trial continues.

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'I got my shotgun and fired over their heads. I was so nervous I tried to load a pack of Polos'

## Dock owner to quit after militant mob attacks his home

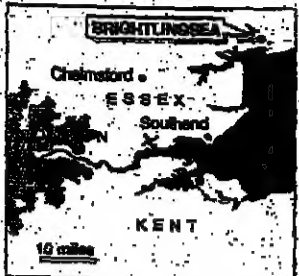
BY MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE wharf owner at the centre of demonstrations against live animal exports said last night he would sell or lease the business after a shooting incident at his home on Saturday.

Ernest Oliver, 73, was speaking under police guard after he fired warning shots over the heads of militant demonstrators who tried to tear down the gates of his country home and hurled bricks of concrete at the house. Mr Oliver said he would dispose of the Brightlingsea Dock and Wharfe Company because he was "shocked and horrified" at the attack on his house in Tendring, Essex.

"About a hundred of them turned up, screaming and shouting outside the house. They terrified my wife and me, smashed the house and broke down two security gates. I got my shotgun and fired over their heads."

"I was so nervous I tried to load a pack of Polos instead of a shell. The next day the local council had the cheek to tell a public meeting there had



been a peaceful protest outside the house.

Mr Oliver, whose six-month contract with Richard Odey, a Hummingdon farmer, to export sheep for slaughter to the Continent, prompted the Brightlingsea protest.

He was fed up with the pressure he had endured, which he described as a vendetta.

The town council and Brightlingsea Against Live Exports, the local protest group, denied that their protests had been anything but peaceful, but welcomed the news that Mr Oliver would end his 21-year ownership of the port.

Ric Morgan, the town mayor, condemned the militant protest, but added: "This is the beginning of the end and the

end may be sooner than one thinks. The pressure must have been intolerable for Mr Oliver, as it has been for the residents of Brightlingsea. I am very pleased he has taken the right course though I am unhappy about what happened at his home."

It is understood that a consortium involving the county council and district council could be interested in buying or leasing the dock.

After the disturbance at Mr Oliver's home, police placed him under protection in case the militants, believed to be from Yorkshire and Merseyside, made a second attempt to terrorise him.

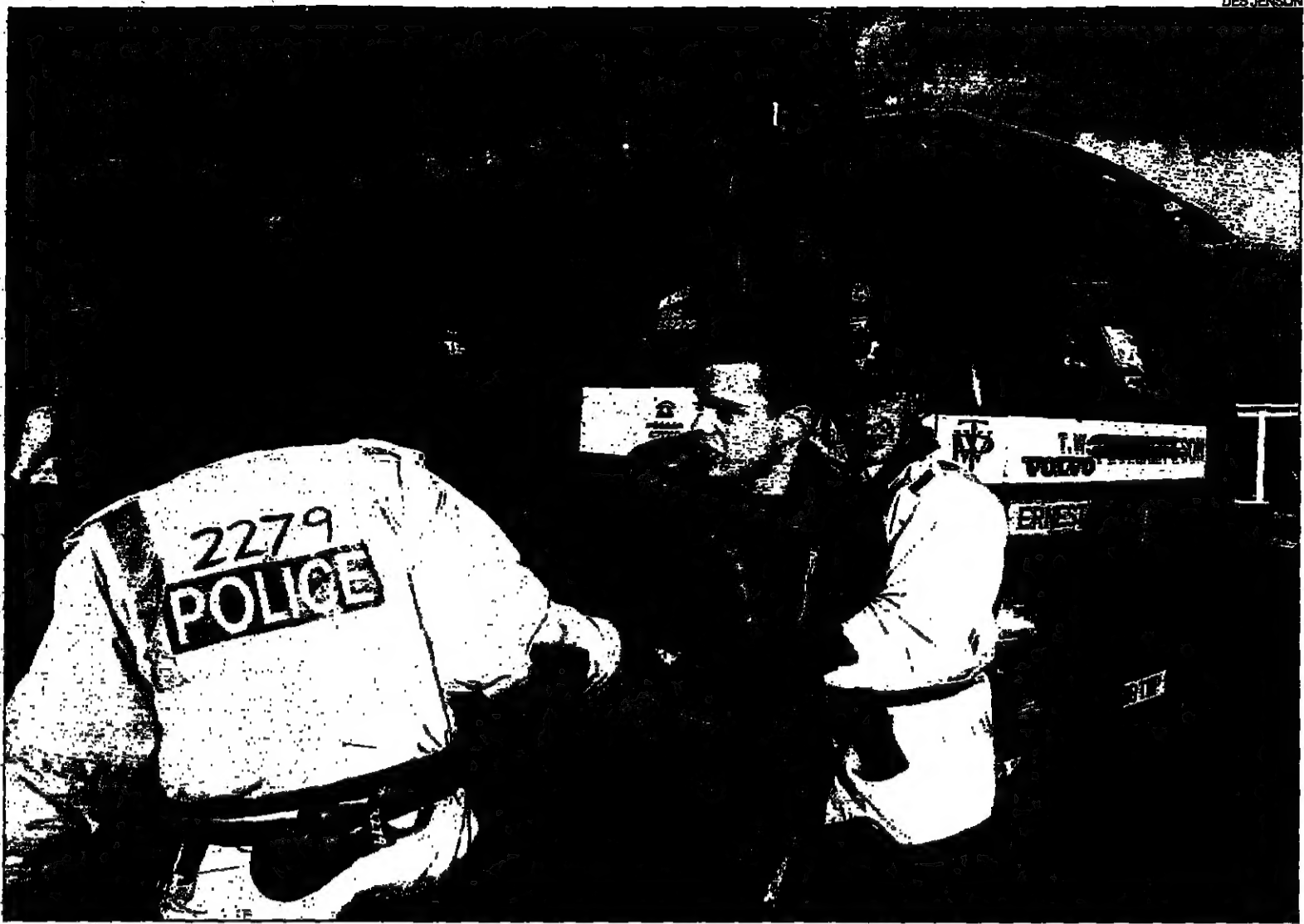
They are linking the attack on Mr Oliver's house to an incident earlier in the day in which the windows of the Fox and Hounds pub at Tillingham, near Burnham-on-Crouch, were smashed. The pub is used by the Essex Farmers Union.

Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham, who is supervising the policing of the protests, said: "I am concerned that militant outsiders are trying to infiltrate the protest at Brightlingsea. The group that went to Tillingham came from outside, dedicated to an unlawful act. They were club-wielding, black-clad hoodlums."

As the protest entered its second week yesterday, 15 people were arrested when police escorted 2,000 sheep to the docks. It took two hours to ferry the animals to the jetty after 800 protesters were allowed to march at the head of the convoy.

The latest consignment of sheep was loaded on a Danish transporter bound for slaughter in Belgium. Veterinary officers from the Agriculture Ministry inspected the cargo after reports that a number of animals had died in transport.

Brightlingsea demonstrators criticised half a dozen outsiders who staged a sit-down in front of the convoy, urging them to follow an agreement with police that they would march peacefully to the docks. Maria Wilby, a protest organiser, said: "People here are worried that protesters are trying to join the band wagon and turn a well-organised demonstration into a violent one. We do not want that. The local people disassociate themselves from them."



Fifteen people were arrested yesterday after police allowed protesters to march in front of lorries carrying sheep to Brightlingsea

## Waldegrave and protesters agree

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BRITAIN launched a campaign yesterday to have the controversial "crate" method of rearing calves for veal abolished throughout Europe. At a meeting with fellow European Union ministers in Brussels, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, also called for a limit to be imposed on the length of journeys for animals.

Mr Waldegrave said he was hopeful of persuading the other ministers to bring forward a review of current EU legislation that permits the use of veal crates, which have been banned in Britain since 1990. Animal rights activists dressed in the white overalls of abattoir workers cheered Mr Waldegrave as he arrived for the meeting, a novel experience for the minister. He chatted with the Belgian and Dutch demonstrators and said he sympathised with their

views. Mr Waldegrave told them: "We could do with more of our own people coming over here and making their protests where it is necessary."

Current EU legislation on veal crates is not due for revision until October 1997, with the aim of introducing more humane treatment of calves only by 2004. Mr Waldegrave wants the whole process speeded.

"We should not think we are alone in this concern," he said. "The Belgians, for example, banned veal crates some time ago. The Irish have told me they will support me and I suspect the Scandinavian member states will too."

In fact, Belgium has not banned veal crates but is sympathetic to the British position. Germany banned the crates two years ago and they are not used in either Sweden or Denmark.

## Super-trailer helps cattle keep their cool

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH engineers are developing an animal-friendly cattle transporter to improve the welfare of exported cows, sheep and chickens.

The biggest threats to the welfare of a transported animal and its meat are heat and moisture levels inside the trailer, which can vary alarmingly. For cattle, noise, vibration, and journey time are also critical to whether the animals suffer.

The transporter is being developed by researchers at the Roslin Research Centre in Edinburgh and the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh. Sensors that judge temperature and humidity in the trailers will send signals to the driver if conditions deteriorate dangerously. The driver could then switch on fans and coolers to reduce the temperature.

Computer-controlled vents on the side of the trailer are also being tested to boost air flows. Researchers are considering computerising the system, allowing the environment to be fine-tuned for

every stage of the journey. The transporter, which could lead to a European standard for farm animal transport, is designed to control the trailer's environment so that each animal has the best conditions during its national or continental journey.

The scientists are using heart, brain and other body monitors on farm animals to pinpoint the exact conditions that cause stress and distress during a journey.

Peter Kettlewell, an engineer at Silsoe, said it was possible that the system could be used to enforce standards of animal welfare. "Everyone knows what a tachograph does. There is no reason why you should not have a thermograph," Mr Kettlewell said. Such a system could be



The new transporter will reduce animals' stress

linked by radio or satellite to government animal welfare inspectors across Europe and provide up-to-the-minute information on the conditions of transported animals. Dr Malcolm Mitchell of

which has so far focused on boosting conditions for the 650 million broiler chickens transported in Britain annually, is being funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Scientists believe they have identified the temperature levels inside trailers that put broilers at risk.

Mr Kettlewell said they had taken delivery of a test transporter to develop a similar trailer for cattle and expected that one could be designed in four years. Dr Mitchell said: "We are developing something that will maximise the welfare of transported animals and not stop the trade. It is research which should form the basis of national and European legislation."

Leading article, page 19

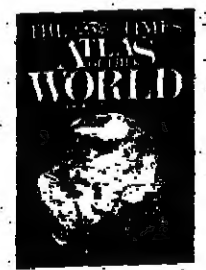
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Benjamin with his parents Andrea and Steve Jones who found the needle while changing his nappy

## Baby had needle in body for two weeks

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

A HOSPITAL is investigating how a hypodermic needle was left inside a newborn baby for two weeks. Andrea Jones pulled the needle from the back of her three-week-old son Benjamin as she changed his nappy at home last week. The needle, said to be 1.2m long, is believed to be of the type used for taking blood samples from babies.

"I just stood there in total disbelief," Mrs Jones said. She and her husband Steve have demanded an independent inquiry after it was alleged the needle had earlier shown up on an X-ray.

Benjamin was born on Christmas Day at Treleke Hospital, Truro, six weeks prematurely. A disciplinary

panel is considering claims that a nurse carried out an appendix operation at the hospital.

Benjamin was admitted to the special baby unit. When he was 10 days old blood, lumbar puncture and swab tests were done because he was unsettled and was not his usual self, Mrs Jones said.

Treleke Hospital said last night that it had agreed to hold an independent investigation into the incident, to be led by child health experts. The hospital said it was taking advice on the form of the inquiry from the South and West Regional Health Authority.

Body & Mind, page 17

## Son trapped by hair

A BABY almost choked to death when he became entangled in his sleeping mother's long hair (Marianne Curphy writes). Hannah Baker, 25, of Bristol, had fallen asleep with her nine-month-old son Jack clinging to her neck after bringing him into bed to stop him crying. She woke an hour later to find her hair

him of air. Ms Baker's fiancé Darren Simmons, 26, hacked off her hair with scissors, freeing the infant. Dr Mark Byron, who helped to revive Jack, said parents should be aware of the risk. He is writing to medical journals, and said mothers with long hair should tie it back if they intend to sleep with their baby in bed.

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Former Dan-Air staff seek nearly £8 million for breach of contract after industrial tribunal victory

## Sacked pilots take battle with BA to High Court

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 200 former Dan-Air pilots are to ask the High Court to make British Airways pay £7.8 million compensation. The pilots claim that when Dan-Air was taken over by British Airways, they were not given the redundancy money they were entitled to.

They won the first round of their battle against BA when an industrial tribunal in Croydon, south London, last week ruled that they had been wrongly dismissed. The tribunal will announce the reasons for its decision this week.

A further hearing, within about six weeks, will determine whether the pilots should receive up to £10,000 compensation each or be reinstated. But the Dan-Air Pilots Action Group has decided also

to seek damages for breach of contract at the High Court.

The chairman of the group, Delphine Gray-Fisk, gave up her new job to concentrate on the case and raised more than £300,000 from 180 pilots who decided to fight the action. She said: "When Dan-Air was taken over 308 pilots were dismissed immediately. Our union, Balpa, told us we did not have any kind of case but so many pilots took legal advice that suggested we did that I decided to pull the whole operation together and to take on BA."

BA took over Dan-Air two years ago. Captain Gray-Fisk, who first flew in a glider at the age of 11 and gained her commercial licence at 18, had been with the Gatwick-based company for 21 years and flew Boeing 727s. She said "almost

all" of the pilots had found work since being laid off but claimed that few had been able to obtain work similar to that they enjoyed with Dan-Air.

"I was fortunate in finding an immediate command. I also did not have a family. But many did and had to go to Malaysia or other foreign countries to get a job, splitting from their families."

BA said: "We are disappointed at the tribunal's decision but we look forward to reading the full judgment. We believe we acted fairly and sympathetically at the time Dan-Air was acquired. The fact is that had BA not acquired Dan-Air some 2,000 jobs would have been lost and many of Gatwick's key short-haul services would have been lost as well."



Captain Delphine Gray-Fisk and other members of the action group celebrating their tribunal victory yesterday at Croydon aerodrome

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By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

One of the high spots of the bridge year is the Macallan International Pairs, being played this week. On the above deal from the 1994 event, I was West. Declarer won the king of spades and played hearts. My partner won the third round and continued with a spade. I could see that if I ducked declarer would have nine tricks (he had to have one minor-suit ace), so I won and had to play the minor that would enable us to take three quick tricks.

Partner needed either the ace, queen, jack of clubs or the ace, queen, ten of diamonds. I switched to the jack of diamonds and declarer claimed. I should have taken notice of my partner's heart play — two then five, before taking the king of hearts. With the AQ 10 of diamonds he would have played five then two of hearts, to indicate a switch to the higher-ranking suit.

At another table, the Brazilian Gabriel Chagas used a

straightforward method to help his partner. The auction had been more revealing. Chagas knew that South had only three diamonds. After the spade lead the declarer played hearts; when Chagas won the king he could therefore see that the declarer had only eight tricks — one spade, four hearts and at most three diamonds. So he switched to the nine of diamonds, an excellent play — it stressed that he had no interest in that suit. It should have alerted his partner to hop up with the ace of spades and switch to a club but unfortunately his partner allowed declarer to slip a spade past him. Perhaps that is why Chagas is playing with a new partner, the Argentinian Lombardi, this year.

#### The Macallan Pairs

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be held at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, tomorrow, Thursday and Friday. For details contact the hotel (0171-387 1200).

### KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

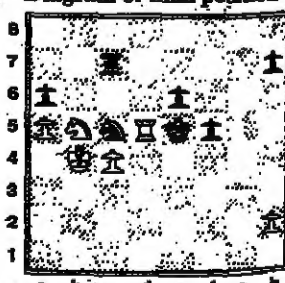
#### Short setback

Nigel Short of Britain suffered his first reverse in the semi-final of the knockout tournament at Wijk aan Zee, Holland, when he lost with the white pieces to the Russian grandmaster Alexei Dreev.

White: Nigel Short  
Black: Alexei Dreev  
French Defence

1 e4	e5
2 d4	d5
3 Nc3	Bb7
4 Bc5	c6
5 Nbd4	Nb6
6 Nf3	Nbd7
7 c3	c5
8 Nxc5	Bxc5
9 dxc5	Nxc5
10 Bb2	Qxd1+
11 Ke1	b5
12 Ne5	Bb7
13 f3	Ke7
14 Ke2	Fhd8
15 Re1	Nd5
16 Bb2	Rac8
17 Rd1	Re8
18 Nc4	Re6
19 b3	Ne4
20 g3	g5
21 g4	Nd5
22 Nc2	Bxc2
23 Re2	f5
24 g4	g4
25 c4	Ne4
26 Nd3	b5
27 Nc5	bxc4
28 Bxc4	Nxc2
29 Rdxc2	Nd4
30 Rxb2	Kc8
31 Rf2+	Ke7
32 Kc3	Bc7
33 a4	Ng6
34 Nf3	Kf6
35 Rb5	Nf8
36 a5	Nd7

#### Diagram of final position



As in the first game of his world championship challenge to Garry Kasparov in 1993, Short's time ran out. In this case, though, Short's position was already hopeless.

#### Dortmund drops out

The Professional Chess Association has had a setback in its efforts to stage its 1995 World Championship match which Garry Kasparov will defend his title. Dortmund had been announced as the venue but over the weekend a spokesman for the city announced that it had pulled out of negotiations due to contractual difficulties with the PCA. The PCA is thought to be anxious to hold the match in Germany since German television has promised more than 60 hours of coverage.

Winning Move: page 44



## Gypsy life 'threatened by ethnic cleansing'

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 90,000 gypsies are being "ethnically cleansed" from our society, with the Government's hostility towards New Age travellers threatening to destroy their ancient culture.

The claim is made in a study of the Criminal Justice Act published today by Bristol University. The Act, which came into force in November, removed council's obligation to provide sites for caravans. It also gave police, landowners and councils new powers to move people on, a reform intended to stop modern caravans rather than traditional gypsy life. Refusal to move may result in caravans being impounded and children taken into care.

"By making it more and more difficult to live a nomadic life and exerting pressure on gypsies to move into houses, the effect will be to make a centuries old way of life disappear altogether," Dr Derek Hawes, one of the authors, said. "There is a great deal of fear among gypsies, who remember that so many of them died in the Holocaust."

A few gypsies in North Wales have been served eviction notices since the Act came into force, but most councils have so far not used it. Dr Hawes said: "I think it is inevitable that the law will have to change because as legal sites run out there will be increasingly difficult and bloody confrontations."

Peter Mercer, president of the Gypsy Council for Education, Culture, Welfare and Civil Rights, said: "The Act amounts to genocide. It is an

attempt to destroy our culture and everything that gypsies do. They are seeking to exterminate us."

Mr Mercer said that true gypsies were descended from families who migrated from Rajput, India, about 1,000 years ago after being defeated by Muslim armies. They were warriors, armours, sword-smiths, musicians and traders. Forced from place to place because they preferred to keep their own language, based on Sanskrit, and culture rather than integrate, the gypsies developed a nomadic lifestyle. The 90,000 who now live in Britain include refugee families from Eastern Europe.

Barbara Perez, co-author of the report and former head of the education service for traveller children in Avon, said that years of work to persuade gypsies to send their children to school was being undermined by the Act.

"The effect on the children is likely to be devastating if their families are evicted from sites," she said. "If parents want them to go to school they will have to agree to being ethnically cleansed and abandon the way of life their families have followed for centuries."

The Commission for Racial Equality tried to have sections about travellers deleted from the Act on the ground that they were discriminatory under the Race Relations Act.

□ *The Gypsy and the State: The ethnic cleansing of British Society*, University of Bristol School for Advanced Urban Studies: £12.95

## Dead boy's mother remanded in custody

By RICHARD DUCES

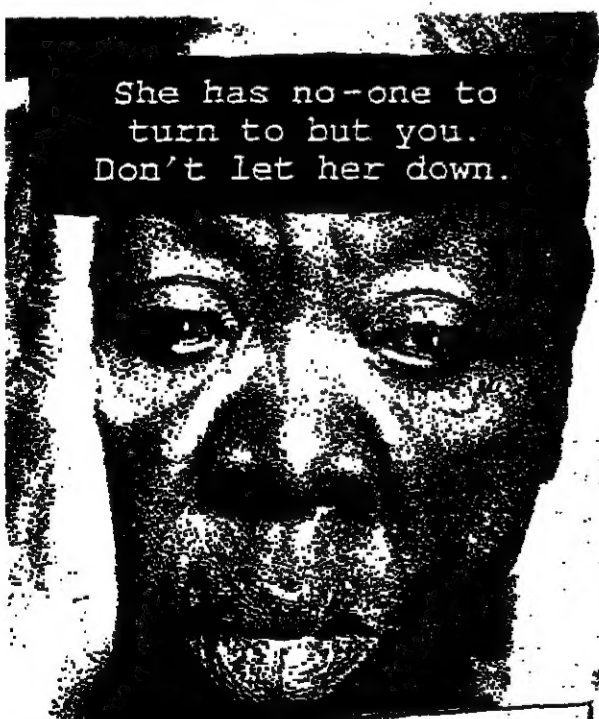
THE mother of Rikki Neave, who was found strangled near his home almost two months ago, was remanded in custody yesterday accused of neglecting and ill-treating her six-year-old son.

Ruth Neave, 26, is also charged with similar allegations against a three-year-old girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons. Magistrates in Peterborough refused an application that Mrs Neave be released on bail pending her next appearance on January 30.

She is charged with wilfully assaulting, ill-treating and ne-

glecting Rikki between January 1 and November 29 last year. She faces similar charges concerning the three-year-old girl and an allegation that she assaulted Detective Constable Heather Thompson on January 19 this year.

Rikki's naked body was found in woodland 500 yards from his home on the Welland estate in Peterborough on November 29 last year. He had been strangled, Detective Superintendent Keith Chamberlain, leading the murder hunt, said yesterday that some lines in the inquiry had been "fully exhausted".



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John Hodge, right, taking the part of a detective in his own film, with Ken Scott as an inspector in *Shallow Grave*, which is already breaking box-office records

## Dilemma of doctor who scripted a box-office hit

By DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE 30-year-old Glaswegian doctor who wrote the script for *Shallow Grave*, the black comedy thriller, is thinking of returning to medicine despite its success. In a fortnight, the film has broken records for several British cinemas, grossing £553,170.

One critic predicted it would attract a cult following and another said it was unmissable. *Shallow Grave* is released in the United States next month and some people expect it to approach the success of *Four Weddings and A Funeral*.

John Hodge is a doctor who longed to write a script. "Eventually, I got to the point where I thought I have to have a go." Yet, having fulfilled a young scriptwriter's dream, he misses medicine. "I don't want to leave it forever. I miss working in a hospital," he said. "I don't miss staying up all night but the human contact. I don't want to write screenplays for the rest of my life. I don't think I've got it in me."

After studying medicine at Edinburgh University from 1982 to 1987, and working in



Checkhov: archetypal doctor turned writer

several hospitals, he had reached a cross-roads, needing to decide on specialist training. Over the past three years *Shallow Grave* increasingly encroached on his time as a doctor, and he spent the whole of last year on it. The £20,000 he has so far earned from *Shallow Grave* "has just gone on life," he said.

Hodge follows in the footsteps of many doctor-writers: Chekhov, Arthur Conan Doyle, Somerset Maugham and, more recently, Michael Crichton, author of *Jurassic Park*. "I've really enjoyed it.

But the attractions will fade as time goes on," Hodge said.

The characters he created would not understand his doubts. The film tells the story of three flatmates faced with a dilemma when a new flatmate dies leaving a suitcase filled with cash under his bed. They bury their flatmate but as greed takes over their lives descend into jealousy and betrayal. Hodge also makes his acting debut in the film, playing a pedantic detective.

The film got off the ground when Hodge teamed up with Andrew Macdonald, a location manager who wanted to be a film producer. They eventually dared to send the script to the Scottish Film Production Fund. Allan Scott, its chairman, rang them saying it was the best he had read in years. David Aukin, Channel 4's head of drama, was equally responsive. Channel 4 gave them £350,000, and £150,000 came from the Glasgow Film Fund.

The script underwent several big rewrites. "I learnt a lot," Hodge said. "I realised how little you need to write into the dialogue and how few pointers you need to give for the modern audience."



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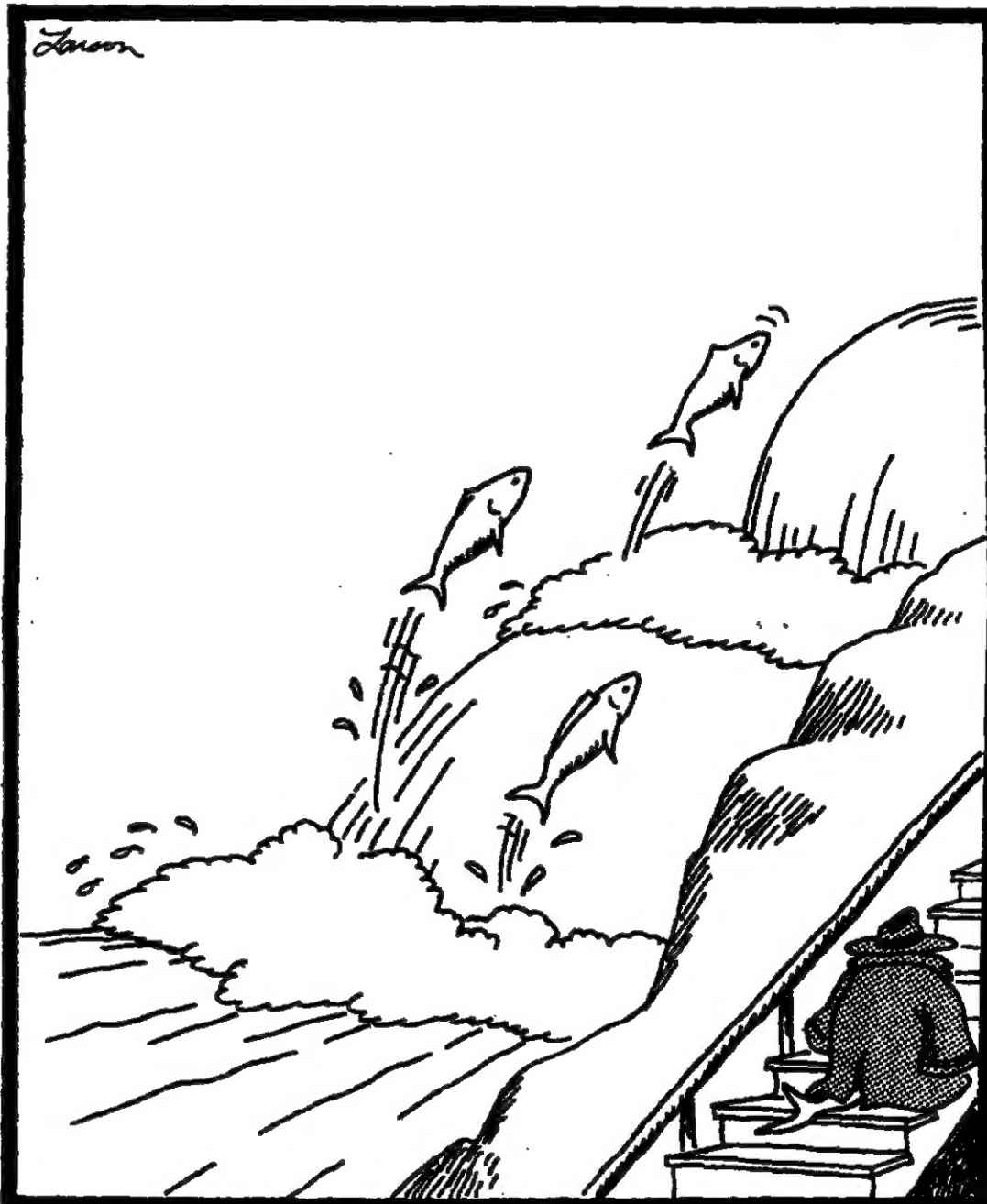
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# MPs left on weak ground by the failings of self-regulation

The Nolan inquiry is already challenging some cherished Westminster conventions after just one of its planned six weeks of public hearings. Lord Nolan himself touched some raw nerves last Thursday.

He said that, from the evidence so far, the rules on MPs' connections with lobbyists need to be tightened up. MPs need better guidance on what is and is not acceptable, and the possible introduction of an independent element into Parliament's arrangements for self-regulation should be considered. Most comment has focused on the first two points. But the third is most sensitive, and

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

has already been criticised by some Tory MPs.

Self-regulation is central to Parliament's traditions, going back to the battles of the 16th and 17th centuries when the Commons was defying the encroachments of the Crown. More recently, the Commons has wanted to ensure that it regulates its own affairs via its Committee of Privileges and, for the past 20 years, Select Committee on Members' Interests. When John Major set up the Nolan Inquiry last October, several MPs,

including Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, chairman of the Members' Interests Committee, referred to the reassurance he had been offered by the Prime Minister that matters affecting members of the Commons will continue to be considered by its members.

What Mr Major said was, first, that the House's own machinery was the proper way to consider issues affecting individual members of the House and, second, that recommendations affecting members and procedures of the House would be for the House to decide. The second is self-evident since the Commons remains supreme over its own procedures. It

alone can change its own rules.

Lord Nolan's comments concern the first part of Mr Major's comments. The consultative document issued by the inquiry last month raised questions of whether any rules should be put into statute, of possible conflict between the elected and sovereign legislature and the unelected judiciary, of whether it might be fairer to MPs if the rules were administered by an impartial body.

The existing Members' Interests Committee has been slow to remedy defects in the registration of interests. It has recommended the minimum changes on disclosure acceptable to almost all MPs,

leaving many grey areas for MPs to carry out parliamentary work on behalf of outside interests. The failure of the committee to maintain public confidence over MPs' own rules is one reason why the Nolan inquiry was set up. The committee has been given a three-year brief and it, or a similar standing body, could be asked to supervise how the Commons applies its rules and recommend changes if necessary.

The central question is whether an independent element should be introduced into the machinery for investigating allegations against individual MPs. Should the Privileges and Members' Interests

Committee have some outsiders on them? As the Nolan committee's consultative paper suggests, some outside involvement would place Parliament in line with the current trend towards impartial external security. This has provoked lengthy debates over regulation of the police and City markets. Any recommendation along these lines is likely to be fiercely resisted by MPs jealous of their rights.

Many MPs do not realise how weak their ground is at present. It is no good protesting about the sovereignty of Parliament when there is an obvious lack of public confidence in MPs' ability to

regulate themselves. This follows a series of allegations not just about obviously outrageous behaviour, such as being paid for tabling questions, but also about the extensive links between many MPs and lobbyists. Similar questions about declining public confidence could, of course, be asked about the press, though the role of elected representatives is very different. If the Nolan inquiry does recommend changes to self-regulation, MPs would be foolish to assume these proposals could easily be brushed aside. Parliament has a lot to prove.

PETER RIDDELL

# Gas chiefs saved as Eggar rules out feared service cuts

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Government was forced to rescue British Gas from a fresh public relations disaster yesterday after a leaked document indicated that the company planned to abolish free gas safety checks and home visits for the elderly, blind and disabled.

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, promised that new legal guarantees would protect the £30 million-a-year special services now provided once the domestic gas market is opened up to new suppliers.

He was responding to a confidential British Gas discussion document passed to Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister, suggesting deep cuts in the free services provided to a million disadvantaged customers. They included introducing a £25 call-out charge for home visits to the elderly and disabled, the withdrawal of braille leaflets for blind customers, ending special handles and adaptors for the disabled on gas fittings, abolishing free safety checks and reducing home calls to "an absolute minimum".

Mr Griffiths said that a British Gas manager had told

home service advisers in Birmingham last week: "We want to tip-toe away from this service so that no one notices."

However, Mr Eggar dismissed the document, insisting that the Gas Bill, due to be published in the next few weeks, would include a clear obligation on all companies to provide services for the disabled and the elderly, although these need not exactly match the services provided at present.

"It might be that there is a different way of tackling the problems... but there will be a quite clear obligation placed on all suppliers of gas to domestic consumers that they will adhere to a very high standard of care to those three groups, the elderly, the disabled and the blind," he told BBC Radio's *World at One*.

Senior British Gas managers also distanced themselves from the paper. Michael Alexander, managing director of the company's public gas supply division, said that there were "no plans to cut services to the elderly and the disabled at the moment". However, he said that some of the services were being reviewed as they

were "not valued by the customer".

Mr Alexander also welcomed Mr Eggar's demand for equal provision of special services from all suppliers. It was the first time that he had received any assurance from the Government that competing suppliers would also be forced to continue the special services, he said.

Labour welcomed Mr Eggar's commitment but said that it was not enough. Mr Griffiths said: "Mr Eggar has not answered the question of people who today are being told that home service visits are not available."

Consumer groups said that the minister's assurances were "far too vague". Barbara Harvey of the Consumers' Association said: "If anything, there should be an upgrading, not a downgrading, in the standards of service provided."

Cedric Brown, the British Gas chief executive who was awarded a 75 per cent pay increase, will face renewed political pressure today when he gives evidence to a Commons inquiry into pay awards for directors of privatised utilities. He is one of three utility chairmen who will be pressed by the Commons Employment Select Committee to explain the reasons for large salary increases since privatisation.

Sir Desmond Fletcher, chairman of North-West Water, and Dr James Smith, chairman of Eastern Electricity, are expected to say the rises can be justified because of the growing complexity of managing public services.

The Labour Party's campaign to focus attention on executive pay in the utility industries will also intensify today as it points to salary rises of 700 per cent in the electricity generating industry since privatisation.



Eggar: dismissed plans in leaked document



Griffiths: Minister's assurance not enough



Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, waving the blustery Manchester weather yesterday. During his visit to the city he made a helicopter flight to see a £160 million rebuilding project in the district of Hulme

# Major tries to calm Unionist nerves after meeting with Molyneux

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR held an hour of private talks with James Molyneux at Downing Street yesterday as he redoubled his efforts to prevent mounting Unionist anxiety about the search for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The hastily arranged meeting with the Ulster Unionist leader came only 48 hours after he said in a BBC radio interview that draft proposals from London and Dublin on the future of Northern Ireland were a "recipe for instability and chaos".

Mr Molyneux's remarks were an attack on the so-called framework document being drawn up by London and Dublin, which is intended to shape talks among the constitutional parties on the

government of Northern Ireland. He was voicing widespread Unionist fears that Britain and Ireland are conspiring to introduce joint sovereignty over the Province.

Downing Street officials refused to comment on the meeting, but later in a speech to Northern Ireland council leaders at Downing Street, the Prime Minister sought to reassure Unionists. He denied that the document would contain any "provision for the British and Irish governments to exercise joint authority over the affairs of Northern Ireland". Mr Major added: "That has never been our intention, and that will not be our proposal."

However, Downing Street

officials indicated that the document would suggest cross-border bodies with executive powers in areas such as trade, tourism and transport. They emphasised that such bodies would not come into being without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr Molyneux is concerned that the two governments also plan to set up two inter-governmental bodies with reserve powers to disband a Northern Ireland assembly and to supervise the work of the Province's 26 district councils and education and health boards.

Downing Street officials said efforts to agree the framework document were now "on the last lap". A

meeting in London on Thursday between Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, will attempt to tie up the loose ends.

Mr Major said that the document would indicate one set of ideas for reaching a settlement commanding widespread support. "There will be no question of the two governments imposing a blueprint on the parties."

The proposals would be subject to consultation among the people of Northern Ireland and they would have the final word. "The need for consent remains paramount. Any agreed outcome will be put to the people of Northern Ireland."

# Redwood pledges to protect Snowdonia

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh Secretary moved yesterday to defuse the controversy caused by reports that he plans to privatise control of Snowdonia.

John Redwood denied having called on the Countryside Council for Wales to consider plans to take Snowdonia out of public hands or that he had asked the council to run down its areas of special scientific interest. "The Government's policy is to give special protection to beautiful areas like Snowdonia," he said. "I have asked the Countryside Council for Wales to report to me on the best ways of protecting animals, birds and scenic beauty."

It was suggested in reports this weekend that Mr Redwood was putting pressure on the council to make big spending cuts, removing many of its responsibilities for conserving wildlife habitats and maintaining public access to the countryside. A Welsh Office spokeswoman confirmed that a review of some of the council's activities and responsibilities was being carried out but said that no decisions had been taken.

Mr Redwood, who is meeting council members in London today, said that he was disturbed by the reports. "If the story is true that the Countryside Council for Wales is working on privatising Snowdonia and allowing some of special scientific interest to deteriorate, then they are wasting public money and time in doing so, as I will not accept such advice. I have never asked them to do so."

Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, accused Mr Redwood of conducting a "dangerous and lonely experiment" with Wales's natural heritage. Labour immediately launched a campaign to keep Snowdonia and 50 other prime nature reserves under public control.

# Gummer to restrict green-belt building

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

JOHN GUMMER, the Environment Secretary, is to announce guidelines today, urging planning authorities to be stricter in refusing development in green-belt areas on the edge of towns.

He is also to insist that institutions such as universities and hospitals, with land in the green belt, must stick to the same rules as everyone else in denying development. His thinking is laid out in the revised green-belt planning policy guidance, PPG2, to be published today.

Mr Gummer believes that the green belt is critical not only to the protection of the countryside, but also to reviving town and city centres. He dismisses the idea that scrubland on the edges of towns can be used without damage. He reasons that this would simply

result in a bite-by-bite consumption of the green belt, leaving nothing, and is instead urging planning authorities to concentrate on rebuilding town and city centres. He sees his green-belt policy as part of a wider strategy which includes discouraging out-of-town shopping development.

The Environment Secretary thinks that institutional organisations have been allowed too much freedom to use their own green belt or open space land for development without the tough restrictions laid down for other development. He intends this to stop. Mr Gummer believes that good motives do not necessarily prevent harmful development. He has told colleagues that an example of this is the University of London allowing squares to be spoilt.

# Hurd offers loyal welcome to a sceptical new aide

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND NICHOLAS WOOD



Davis: post welcomed by Tory Euro-sceptics

DOUGLAS Hurd stuck loyalty to the Government's increasingly sceptical line on Europe yesterday as he announced the appointment of David Davis, his junior minister for European affairs, to an influential European Union committee preparing the 1996 review of the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Davis, an abrasive 46-year-old former grammar school boy, who takes a harder line on Europe than the Foreign Secretary, will be Mr Hurd's "personal representative" on a study group assembled from the 15 EU states and the European Parliament, which will debate the changes due to be negotiated.

Mr Davis jokingly describes himself as a "Euro-sceptic for Maastricht" and was the Government whip responsible for browbeating reluctant Tory MPs into voting for the treaty.

Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday welcomed the appointment of Mr Davis. One leading Maastricht rebel described his former opponent as a man with a "healthy dose of cynicism" about the Foreign Office and

Europe and someone who could be relied upon to defend British interests preparatory to the inter-governmental conference next year.

Conservative MPs and ministers saw the appointment of the MP for Bournemouth, who has degrees from Warwick and Harvard, as a further sign of the more Eurosceptic stance being taken by Mr Major in the light of the internal Conservative feud over Europe.

Mr Hurd denied hints from Foreign Office sources that he

had been unhappy about Mr Davis's appointment and said that he would do an "excellent job". He said that British policy in the 1996 talks would be that outlined by Mr Major in his David Frost interview this month and the Prime Minister's speech in Leiden last autumn. In the Frost interview Mr Major ruled out any significant moves towards European federalism in 1996.

Mr Hurd said: "It's perfectly possible to work out in the next weeks and months a strategy which will be supported by the great majority, not just of our party but by the great majority of public opinion and which will gain allies on the Continent of Europe."

Mr Davis said he would be approaching the job with British interests in mind and would be reflecting the view of Europe the Prime Minister has outlined. "John Major's view is of a decentralised Europe, which is flexible, allowing expansion to the east, with nation states having a strong say, and which is relevant to the citizens of Europe," he told BBC Radio.

# Scots MPs gain new rights

THE Government last night gave Scottish MPs new rights to question ministers as part of a programme of reforms to strengthen Scotland's role at Westminster.

Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, announced that he and junior ministers would take part in a new question-and-answer session exclusively with the 72 MPs from Scot-

land. The move is part of measures that follow a review of the work of the Scottish Grand Committee. The committee will also sit more frequently in Scotland.

Mr Lang said: "Changes such as this will increase the accountability of Scottish Office ministers without weakening Scotland's special position at the Parliament of

the Union." The first Commons question time outside the chamber will take place on February 8, when the Scottish Grand Committee introduces its own 45-minute question and answer session at Westminster. Scottish MPs have been angered that MPs from elsewhere take up time allotted for Scottish questions in the chamber.

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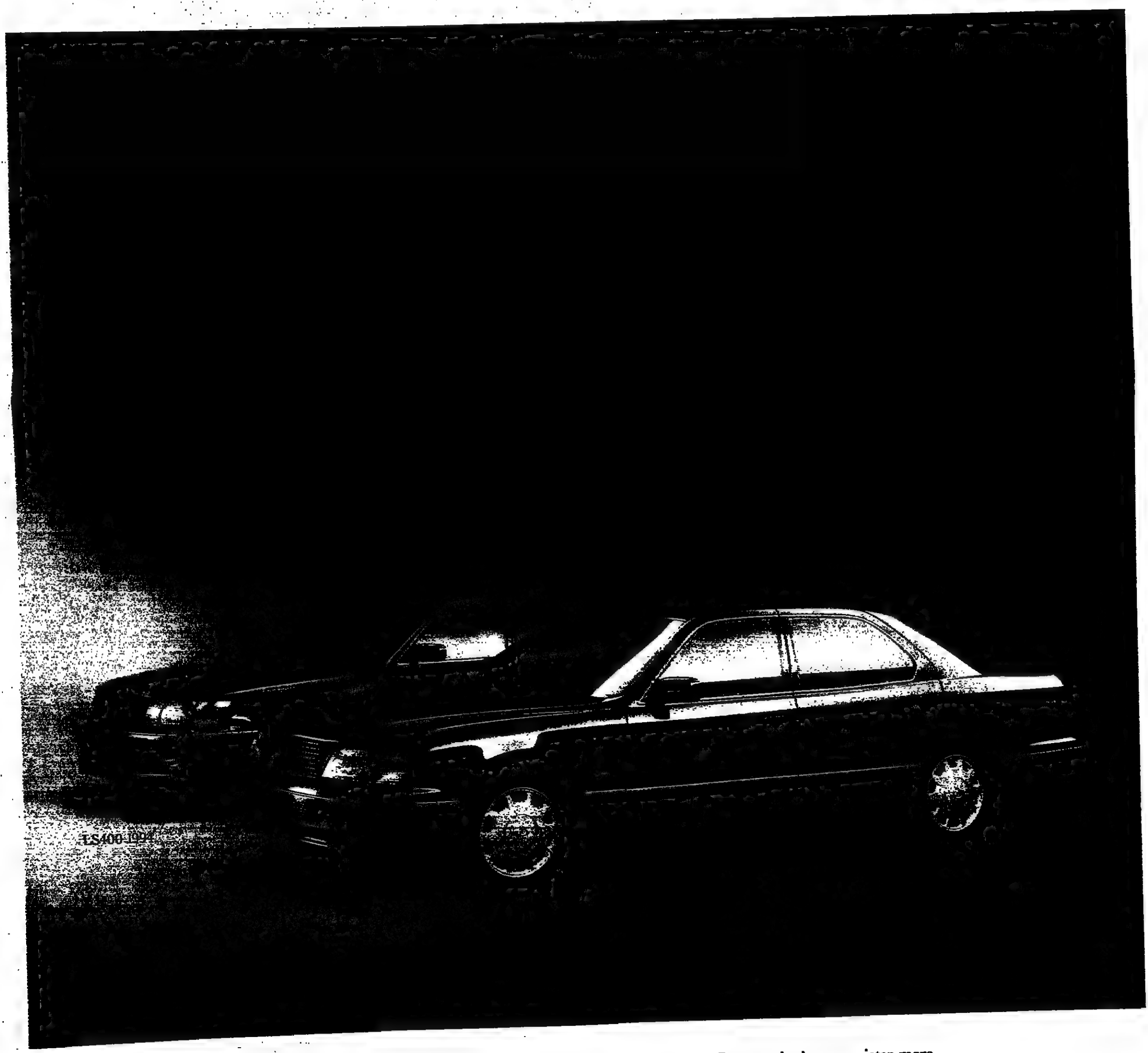
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"There is too much hatred here. This is the end for the peace campaigners"

## Militants' ecstasy after bomb blasts fuels Israeli anger

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PEACE in the Middle East retreated even further yesterday as ecstatic Islamic militants in Gaza paid homage to the two suicide bombers who butchered 19 Jews on Sunday. Israel was plunged into mourning while the victims were buried amid scenes of mixed grief and fury.

Many Jews vowed revenge when they heard how the mass murder — which shocked to the core a nation supposedly injured to violence — was celebrated on the streets of the newly autonomous Gaza Strip. The two bombers were named proudly by Islamic Jihad, the Iranian-backed group which launched the attack at a crowded army pick-up point near Netanya. All but one of the victims were under 25.

At one wake attended by more than 1,000 Palestinians, an Arab shouting through a loudspeaker told the crowd of mainly young men celebrating with no sign of interference from the Palestinian police: "The Islamic movement gives its condolences to the hero of the attack which led to the killing of 20 pigs and the injuring of 60 monkeys."

A Jewish office worker in her forties who heard the account of the macabre Palestinian celebrations as funerals were continuing throughout the country said, tears streaming down her face: "That is the end for the peace campaigners. There is too much hatred for this to continue without Israel taking action. With so many

dead and wounded, virtually every family knows of someone involved."

The contrast between the reaction in the two communities was the more stark as the distances between the two were so small.

At the wakes for the two bombers, Anwar Sukkar, 23, and Salah Shaker, 25, a male nurse, dates and Arab sweet pastries were served as a symbol for the supposed "sweetness" of the occasion.

Both dead militants were bachelors who had been involved in the intifada against Israel. Like other suicide bombers before them, they had been told that they would enjoy the special paradise set aside for Islamic martyrs, where life is rich and each fallen fighter is given 72 virgin

brides. Undeterred by Palestine Liberation Organisation threats to clamp down on the militants, Shaikh Abdullah Shami, a leader of Islamic Jihad, promised at the wake for Mr Sukkar to keep up the campaign of suicide bombings for which the militants claim to have scores of volunteers standing by.

"Jihad (holy war) against the enemy will continue and will not stop," he told the crowd of about 200 attending the ceremony held in a house in Gaza City.

Among those present was the dead bomber's father, a traffic policeman in the PLO police appointed by Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

The attack was claimed in part as revenge for the shooting dead of three Palestinian police by Israeli troops. Despite the joy supposed by Islamic leaders to cover such occasions, the bomber's mother appeared angry with the militants for luring her son, a carpenter who had served 11 months in an Israeli jail, into the mission. "They have taken my son away from me," she

waited before being hushed by a woman activist from Islamic Jihad, who warned her that there were reporters present.

"It is a war between us and the Israelis that will not be settled by one operation here and another operation there," said Shaikh Shami, spiritual leader of the group which operates freely inside the Gaza Strip. "The solution lies in



President Weizman, considered a super-dove, has touched a chord among ordinary Jews, but has angered some ministers who believe that his role is purely ceremonial

## Weizman speaks out against talks with PLO

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

EZER WEIZMAN, the swashbuckling former RAF fighter pilot who is Israel's seventh President, has stirred up the fiercest controversy of his turbulent career. He has urged an end to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation despite the determination of the Labour Government, which nominated him, to continue them.

With senior ministers yesterday reported to be "livid" with the 70-year-old President's intervention in the political arena from which he is supposed to remain aloof, there was ample evidence on the country's streets and in its media that Mr Weizman has once more struck a chord with ordinary Jews.

"Listen to Weizman!" said the right-wing *Jerusalem Post* over an editorial praising the President's decision to ignore the advice of his illustrious uncle, Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President, who said that the holder of the mainly ceremonial post of head of state was permitted to poke his nose "only into his handkerchief".

Referring comments to be heard throughout Jewish west Jerusalem, the newspaper claimed that the call to reassess the peace process was unprecedented.

"Israeli Presidents are expected to grant pardons and meet dignitaries, not advise the Government on foreign affairs," it said, adding: "That Weizman ignored protocol and spoke out following the massacre at Beit Lid [on Sunday] is a measure of his sensitivity to the public mood

and gravity of the hour." The maverick President's intervention and his hint that the crisis is now so serious that a government of national unity is required was guaranteed to have maximum impact, both because of its timing and the public perception of Mr Weizman as a super-dove who was a close personal friend of the late President Sadat of Egypt and the first member of the Israeli Cabinet to have contacts with the then outlawed PLO.

A mercurial former head of the air force and hero of the 1967 War, Mr Weizman — known by Menachem Begin, the late Prime Minister, as "my charming, naughty boy" — used a graphic military metaphor to drive home his televised call for ending the talks in order to persuade the PLO to take action against the Islamic militants in their midst.

"The peace process is like a battle, the battle for peace. If one goes through a minefield, one stops and checks and stops again, examining the terrain astutely with proper tactics and proper attention to the conditions," he maintained.

"No one just marches through, straight ahead, regardless of the dangers, without looking around. When one gets shelled, one needs to reassess. In the current situation, there has to be a review."



Sukkar, son of a PLO traffic policeman

## Quake effects rock Tokyo market

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

A WAVE of selling hit the Tokyo stock market yesterday as the death toll from last week's Kobe earthquake rose to more than 5,000.

The selling raised fresh fears about delayed effects from the quake on the Japanese economy. "I think people are only beginning to realise just how serious this quake was, partly because news of the destruction came out in a slow-burning fashion," Tom Hill, a strategist with S.G. Warburg Securities in Tokyo, said. Investors are likely to lose further confidence in the Japanese economy, as cost estimates emerge in the aftermath of the "Great Hanshin Earthquake," as it has been officially named.

Many of those selling Japanese stocks were foreign investors, who sat on the sidelines amid uncertainty about the full extent of the earthquake damage. Analysts last night warned of a potential "landslide" effect if other important investors, including Japanese institu-

tions, react to the run on the market with mass sell-offs of stock.

Authorities in the port city of Kobe reported last night that the death toll from the quake had risen to 5,051, with 106 missing and more than 26,000 injured. A British team from the International Rescue Corps, a non-governmental organisation, arrived yesterday to join rescue operations in the stricken region. Willie McMartin, who is leading the 15-member team, acknowledged that hopes have all but disappeared for finding any more survivors beneath the rubble in Kobe. Mr McMartin said his team had decided to come anyway, despite having its initial offer, made 30 minutes after the quake at dawn last Tuesday, rejected by the Japanese Government.

Three aftershocks rocked the city yesterday, including one measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale which caused buildings to sway and shattered glass. Driving rain and wind continued to

hamper relief workers. The focus in the devastated city has turned to clearing rubble, dealing with the refugees and restoring basic needs.

More than 370,000 people remain homeless, although some services such as electricity and water have been restored to many affected areas. About two-thirds of the schools still standing after the quake held classes yesterday for the first time in a week.

Estimates of the cost of reconstruction and total damage inflicted by the quake have spiralled. Calculations by government planners, private think-tanks and securities firms have ranged from \$10 billion (£6.6 billion) to \$300 billion. The differentials are due to methods of calculation, some of which take into account the disruption of business and the greatly increased costs of rebuilding with superior materials and technology.

Stock markets, page 26



Mandela: involved in power struggle

## Inquiry ordered by ANC

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress yesterday announced it will investigate reports of financial irregularities in the National Tourism Forum, a non-governmental organisation chaired by Peter Mokaba, a senior ANC MP.

Investigation of the forum, which was established by the ANC, follows reports that 1.2 million rands (£240,000) had disappeared under Mr Mokaba's chairmanship.

Mr Mokaba, who ordered an audit of the forum's accounts which highlighted irregularities, has denied any wrongdoing. Ngako Maphepa, the executive director, has been suspended.

Winnie Mandela is also at the centre of a controversy over her alleged role in a struggle for control of the influential Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa). According to a Johannesburg newspaper, she recently helped to remove furniture and computers from the organisation's headquarters.

A source close to Mrs Mandela admitted she participated, but insisted that the action was authorised by the Contralesa executive.

## New Zealand plans to replace British honours system

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND is planning to phase out the British honours system and replace it with an enhanced set of existing local awards.

In a symbolic move towards republicanism, Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, yesterday appointed a committee of eight members to examine the honours system, which has already been replaced in Australia.

Mr Bolger, a republican who favours a solely New Zealand-based honours system, said that Philip Burdon, the Trade Minister, would head the committee. "We will

switch to a proportional voting system based on Germany," Mr Bolger has maintained that New Zealand's "British system of government" would inevitably end.

Any decision to cut ties with the monarchy is unlikely before 2000. As part of the "republican agenda" the Government has already moved to abandon the Privy Council as New Zealand's final court of appeal by ordering a top-level legal report on the implications of doing so.

Trevor Rogers, a ruling party MP, said he was concerned the proposed changes were the result of "an urge" on the part of Mr Bolger rather than any public pressure for change. Other government sources said Mr Bolger was "fixated" with the issue.

Graeme Lee, a former minister in the Bolger Government and a strident monarchist, said Mr Burdon's appointment as chairman of the advisory committee was unsuitable, given his declared support for a republic.

Mr Burdon rejected the charge, saying any suggestion he was "some sort of over-emotional republican" was unfair and belied everything that he stood for. "These issues are part of the progression and development of New Zealand as a country."

□ Sydney: The Australian Republic Movement unveiled its timetable for cutting formal ties with Britain yesterday, urging the Government to hold a referendum on the issue within the next four years (Roger Maynard writes).

The vote for constitutional change would be held with the general election after next, which is due no later than 1999. The movement's plan will be put to the Government soon and Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, is expected to give it his blessing.

## Santer call for greater EU unity

BRUSSELS: Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission for the past decade, brought a turbulent era to an end yesterday when he formally handed over to his successor, Jacques Santer (George Brock writes).

Mr Santer, Prime Minister of Luxembourg for ten years, told EU foreign ministers yesterday that the Union needs "a new qualitative leap to greater unity."

## Soldier dies

Bonn: Storms killed two people, including a British soldier, and towns along the Moselle and Saar in western Germany prepared for more flooding as rain continued. The soldier, 21, died when a tree fell on his tent. (Reuters)

## Leader to quit

Lisbon: Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Prime Minister of Portugal, said that he would resign as leader of the centre-right Social Democrat Party and would not seek re-election in the October polls. (Reuters)

## Last respects

Tehran: More than 30,000 mourners attended the funeral of Mehdi Bazargan, the former Prime Minister, who led the Government after the 1979 Islamic revolution. (AFP)

## Judge slain

Kiel: A divorce court judge was murdered by a man who cut her throat with a knife, court officials said. The man was aggrieved at not being given custody of his son. (AFP)

## MP shot dead

Madrid: The Basque separatist group Eta was presumed responsible for shooting dead Gregorio Ordóñez, a local MP in San Sebastián, the Basque resort.

## Conciliatory Patten lauds Deng reforms

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, held out an olive branch to Peking yesterday when he praised Deng Xiaoping, the seriously ailing supreme leader, and Chinese officials.

In a speech to foreign correspondents, he avoided speculating about Mr Deng's health or its impact on Hong Kong. Mr Patten will arrive in London tomorrow. He usually makes robust speeches before such visits so he can arrive in Whitehall trailing an air of command.

But yesterday he said that Hong Kong and China were economically "umbilically-linked" and that whatever leaders might emerge across the border, he was sure they would continue "the spectacular Deng Xiaoping revolution."

Mr Patten was pressed on problems of the revolution, such as the imprisonment of foreign businessmen and about the theft of intellectual

property. He praised Chinese officials for admitting they had problems, saying: "That kind of openness is good."

Although in the past he has warned the Chinese to change their ways, to adopt the rule of law and respect human rights, he cautioned his audience not to "expect the impossible from China," and not to be "starry-eyed."

On the ceremonies marking the transfer of sovereignty in 1997, Mr Patten foresaw co-operation to achieve a dignified observance, which would need to include "the departure of the Governor."

□ Peking: China has executed at least 125 people in the past two weeks in a crackdown on crime ahead of the lunar New Year. The China News Service reported yesterday. Among those to be put to death was a 42-year-old lorry driver nicknamed the "Guangdong Ripper," who was convicted of killing 12 young women. (Reuters)

## 'Sweatshop' Britain works longest

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is the sweatshop of Europe with the longest working hours in the European Union, according to the latest statistics.

The average working week in Britain was 43.4 hours in 1992, almost five hours more than in Belgium, the country with the shortest working hours. The difference is even more pronounced for male employees, who work an average 45.1 hours a week in Britain and only 38.7 hours in Belgium. Britain is also the only EU country where

women work more than 40 hours on average.

The differences in working hours widened between 1983 and 1992. While they went down in ten of the 12 countries, they increased in Britain and Ireland. Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, commented dryly that "the general tendency is not towards convergence."

In six countries — Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Luxembourg — employees work fewer than 40 hours on average.

In Germany, the average working week is expected to decline substantially in the next few years, as employers and employees are edging towards a compromise on a four-day week as part of a to reduce unemployment.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, yesterday had an opportunity to express his scepticism on some of the European Commission's social policy plans at a meeting in Brussels with Pádraig Flynn, the Irish Social Affairs Commissioner.

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# Blood and tears stain city where only death can claim victory

GROZNY is a hell in which death can come at any time. This is not suffering in a conflict between two evenly-matched armies. This densely-populated city is being blown to pieces by the second most powerful war machine on earth, with total disregard for civilian casualties.

The intensity of the violence is shocking. The city is the embodiment of chaos, as if a hurricane of shrapnel has been blasted through every street, pitting, tearing and scarring each building with the irregular bite of high explosives.

Glass is blown like a carpet across every street; the trees are horizontal and smashed; gas pipes flame and buildings smoke. The air is full of a succession of explosive intrusions — hiss, crunch, crash, thump, bang, with no respite.

The front lines shift each day, building by building, alley by alley, allowing snipers and artillery observers to move around at will. The incoming fire, whether from artillery, mortars, rocket systems, aircraft or helicopter gunships,

is of such intensity that to take the shortest journey is to risk a type of mobile Russian roulette.

You walk past a man who is ranting his last breath; you are then shot at by a Russian sniper, and are told when you have escaped that it was the same one who shot the man in the head.

Meanwhile, the people taking the route you would have taken 25 yards further on, had you known about the sniper, are turned into red chaff by a shell at about the same second that the gunman is shooting at you.

The corpses vary. There are people blown out of their flats; dead dogs, blown off the streets, and dead birds, blown off the roofs and out of the sky. There is blood everywhere, vivid on the white snow. Pathetic shallow graves are accumulating among the shattered trees of the parks and gardens.

The living are taking on a trololody existence in deep basements and cellars, emerging pale-faced at dawn to tramp in



Grozny's civilians are caught between Moscow's war machine and Chechen warriors: Anthony Loyd, who has reported from the frontlines of Bosnia, says its plight is even more harrowing to witness

search of food and water, and bury their dead. There is no life as such, no undertaking that is not connected to the basic requirements of survival or fighting.

Most of the civilians are Russian, and the majority of them are old. Yesterday a third of the people I spoke to just broke down in tears.

The Chechens, by contrast, all seem to be soldiers. They are swarthy and energetic, resilient beyond belief, smile a lot, and appear to enjoy fighting.

They know their city inside out and will leave a historic mark in military appraisals of 20th century street fighting. Dark-

haired, many shaven-headed and bearded, they are an ancient warrior people, believe in themselves, and as a result are very, very tough.

They may have lost the Presidential Palace in the centre of Grozny, but this has only steeled their resolve to fight on.

Armoured troops in: The latest Russian reinforcements arriving in Grozny yesterday included troops, armoured vehicles and self-propelled heavy artillery, witnesses said.

Gleb Bryansky, a Rostov television producer, saw a column of 150 vehicles moving into the capital from the north.

Another 40 armoured vehicles and six self-propelled guns arrived on flat-bed trucks at a railhead north of the city, he said.

It was not immediately clear whether the reinforcements were a prelude to a new Russian onslaught after four days of relative calm. Mr Bryansky said it was the biggest Russian reinforcement he had seen so far in the city.

The vehicles included trucks filled with troops, armoured personnel carriers and multi-barrelled anti-aircraft guns that can be put to deadly use when deployed for street fighting.

Meanwhile in Brussels, European Union Foreign Ministers decided at a meeting that no EU sanctions would be launched against the Russian Government over its military suppression of Chechen independence.

The ministers condemned "grave violations of human rights" and demanded peace negotiations and access to the war zone for humanitarian aid. A statement

said: "The European Union continues to follow developments in Chechnya with great concern. It deplores the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which are still occurring there."

But the statement made no reference at all to two trade and co-operation agreements which the EU is working on with Russia. The European Commission is free to go slow with the first of the agreements but no explicit threat of sanctions will be made.

The European Commission, Germany and The Netherlands had been expected to press for tougher measures, but they accepted the view of the majority, that criticism of Russian action should be kept light enough to preserve President Yeltsin's position in power.

British officials emphasised that Western reaction to the conflict in Chechnya must not strengthen the hand of the Russian army in their battle over economic and political reforms. (Reuters)

## Britain's new chief in Bosnia to adopt quieter media role

By Eve-Anne Prentice and Michael Evans

A SENIOR civilian media adviser has been allocated to Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, who takes over today as commander of the United Nations troops in Bosnia. Initially, the general is expected to adopt a lower profile than was customary with Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, his predecessor.

Fred Eckhardt, a highly experienced UN spokesman with a deep knowledge of the Balkan conflict, will spend a month in Sarajevo overhauling relations between the UN Protection Force and the media.

His appointment comes after months of increasing international press condemnation of General Rose.

Smith was never one for the limelight, one officer in Sarajevo said yesterday. "I think he is likely to be less vocal than General Rose," another UN source said.

Mr Eckhardt, who at 51 is the same age as the media-warrior General Smith, says that he will stay in the Bosnian capital only long enough to oversee the appointment of more civilian spokesmen and help to improve their links with military spokesmen.

Diplomatic sources in Geneva and New York say, however, that they hope he will stay.

Mr Eckhardt was spokesman for the Geneva peace process under Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the former UN peace negotiator, from 1992 until May 1993. He is believed to have left Geneva after disagreements with Lord Owen and was replaced by another spokesman, John Mills. "Fred Eckhardt is one of the best spokesmen I have come across in my career," Jung Blassegger, UN correspondent of the Swiss Broad-

casting Corporation, said. "His background information was always reliable and informative, but he got into trouble with Lord Owen."

Mr Eckhardt's Sarajevo mission comes after General Smith visited the UN in New York and "indicated that the spokesman system needed looking at", a UN source said. Mr Eckhardt, who is spokesman for all UN peacekeeping operations, said: "We promised we would get General Smith a good senior spokesman, and I will assess the situation."

With the conclusion of General Rose's command of the UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday, his successor has been left only a partial solution to the Balkan madness that has lasted for nearly three years.

No UN military commander expects to return home after completing his tour in Bosnia with laurels of gratitude from the warring parties. General Rose, who flew from Sarajevo to the Croatian port of Split



Smith: not a man to grasp the limelight

yesterday, was no exception. By the time he had packed to go home after the full 12 months in the top post — a feat none of his predecessors managed — he had succeeded in upsetting many of the leading figures both in and out of Bosnia.

His end-of-term achievement report would vary depending on who was writing it, but the history of the conflict will show that General Rose, more than any of his predecessors, succeeded in changing the course of the conflict and the whole concept of UN peacekeeping.

His critics have been quick to denounce him, claiming that he started his command in a robust and hard-nosed fashion and ended a humbled victim of Balkan and Western politics, guilty of succumbing too easily to Bosnian Serb pressure.

The truth is that the Western media which has played no small part in forming and changing policy in Bosnia, built him up as a hero before he even landed at Sarajevo airport to take over from the disillusioned Belgian, General Francis Bréquignon.

Within weeks, the guns around the Bosnian capital had been silenced and withdrawn, partly through General Rose's no-nonsense approach. No wonder General Rose was viewed as the miracle man.

From that moment, it was always going to be in the Bosnian Serbs' interest to pull him down from the pedestal erected by the outside world and to turn him into an anti-hero. In some ways, they succeeded, particularly over Gorazde and Bihac where General Rose was perceived,



General Rose helps to make bread for French troops during his farewell party

rightly or wrongly, to have failed to take sufficiently decisive action to stop the Serb attacks on the Muslim enclaves.

However, ever since the first airstrike by Nato aircraft on Serb targets near Gorazde in April last year, the Bosnian conflict and the UN's role took on a new dimension. Suddenly General Rose was at the centre of a post-Cold War power struggle involving the future of Nato, the future of Nato's relationship with the UN, and

the function of air power in a peacekeeping environment. General Rose was expected to ignore the restrictions imposed by his UN mandate, largely limited to escorting humanitarian aid, and to stride forth against the Serbs, backed by an armada of Nato bombers. It was wishful thinking on Nato's part, unrealistic and had nothing to do with peacekeeping.

As he flies back to Britain today, however, for a long holiday General Rose has

handed his successor a peaceful central region, a Bosnian capital no longer under remorseless artillery fire and a reorganised UN command that has increased the effectiveness of the peacekeeping forces throughout the country. □ Rome: Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has indicated in an interview published here yesterday that his breakaway republic, which controls 70 per cent of the country, might be prepared to accept 50 per cent. (AFP)

## Dini sets out plans to reform economy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

LAMBERTO DINI, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday pledged that his technocratic Government will be transitional but also outlined an ambitious programme of policy objectives, raising suspicions among his detractors that he will try to prolong his short-term mandate.

In his inaugural speech to the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Dini, 63, said his administration will have served its purpose when it retires in the runway public spending deficit that threatens to bankrupt Italy, and reforms the country's generous state pension system. "To dispel misunderstanding, I confirm that the Government will consider its duty exhausted as soon as the four commitments taken on as an essential part of its programme are exhausted," Signor Dini said. He hoped to introduce the other main planks of his programme, reform of the regional election system and reform of political access to television, by next month.

Signor Dini promised to introduce a mini-budget by the spring, warning that Italy risks becoming increasingly isolated within Europe unless the state exercises "maximum rigour". On foreign policy, he appeared to differ from the Eurocratic line followed by his predecessor, Silvio Berlusconi. "The idea of Europe is rooted in our constitution... Italy remains profoundly committed to maintain the political unity of Europe," he said. He also pledged to try to take Italy back into the European Monetary System.

The Prime Minister went on to outline numerous proposals, including pursuit of the privatisation programme, begun by previous Governments, support for the impoverished mezzogiorno in the south, a new national defence model, reforms in the battle against organised crime, and of the legal and penal systems.



Dini: state must exercise rigour

## Prison fails to dampen Jackal's ardour

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

MONTHS in a Paris jail have apparently done little to dampen the seductive charm of Carlos the Jackal, the terrorist whose capture last August was a triumph for the French Government.

According to the governor of the Santé prison in central Paris, warders caught Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, the alleged killer and Don Juan of the terrorist world, entertaining a woman lawyer on his lap. The incident was one of two involving what the authorities term the "strange behaviour" of Marie-Annick Ramassamy-Vergès, a member of the defence team led by Jacques Vergès, who is no recluse.

Mme Ramassamy-Vergès, the daughter of a former Socialist senator from the Indian Ocean territory of La Réunion, arrived for a routine meeting with Sánchez and refused a chair, saying she was staying for only five minutes, according to the governor's complaint to Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, the investigating magistrate for terrorism. "A few moments later, a chief warder saw that she was seated on the knees of the prisoner." The guard intervened to make her "adopt an attitude more in keeping with the place". Her behaviour, the governor added, seemed "totally intolerable on the part of a lawyer".

The lawyer was subsequently summoned by the head of the Paris Bar, according to Le Point, which reported the affair at the weekend. A month after the incident, which took place last October, gendarmes officers escorting Sánchez to the judge's chambers reported that Mme Ramassamy-Vergès was suspiciously interested in their operation, asking detailed questions about their units and weapons, according to the governor's report reproduced by the magazine.

The defence team has been involved in controversy before. Last autumn, files in the archives of the Stasi, the former East German security police, depicted M Vergès as a member of the Carlos network. He has denied the charge.

## Turkish novelist faces five-year jail sentence

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

IN DEFIANCE of Western public opinion, Istanbul's state security court yesterday committed Yasar Kemal, Turkey's most famous novelist, to trial. Mr Kemal, whose life was the subject of a recent BBC documentary, faces a possible five-year prison sentence for an outspoken article published in Der Spiegel, the German magazine.

In the article, Mr Kemal referred to Turkish republicanism history as 70 years of "oppression and atrocity". His harshest comments were reserved for what he called the brutality of the army. Its efforts to suppress Kurdish separatism in the southeast of the country was shielded by a "campaign of lies", he wrote.

In remarks destined to attract the attention of the public prosecutor, Mr Kemal implied that although most Turkish Kurds did not support separatism, it was increasingly difficult to argue against those who did.

"Yasar Kemal is on trial for saying there is not enough democracy in Turkey. I guess that means he was right," Orhan Pamuk, another popular Turkish novelist, who accompanied Mr Kemal to his trial, said.

Few Turkish adolescents finish school without reading Mr Kemal's epic tales about simple people who grow into legend. Most popular and widely translated is Mehmet My Hawk, the tale of a peasant who is forced by injustice into becoming an outlaw.

It is a story Mr Kemal, himself the son of a poor villager, is in danger of

repeating in real life. At 73 he becomes the doyen of a lengthening list of writers charged with violating Turkey's anti-terrorism law. This makes it an offence to engage in propaganda aimed at destroying the integrity of the Turkish state.

The court yesterday rejected the prosecutor's appeal to detain Mr Kemal pending his trial. Such limited clemency is unlikely to stem growing criticism against what appears to be the Turkish state security court's rearguard action to improve Turkey's human-rights record.

"Time will tell that it is my prosecutors who are on trial," Mr Kemal said as he left the court.

Last December, a court in Ankara sentenced seven Kurdish nationalist deputies to terms of up to 15 years for abetting terrorism. Criticism of that

decision in the European Parliament led to European foreign ministers postponing final negotiations on Turkey's long-standing attempt to enter into a customs union with EU member states.

The talks will take place in March. With the exception of Athens, most European capitals regard customs union as an essential policy to prevent Turkey from drifting into reckless isolation.

□ Copenhagen: The Danish Government announced it had taken up the cause of 400 fasting prisoners held in what it called deplorable conditions in a Turkish jail.

Niels Helveg Petersen, the Foreign Minister, told parliament he would raise the living conditions and alleged torture of political prisoners at Izmir's Buca prison with

the Turkish Government, as well as with the European Union and among the Nordic countries. Four hundred political prisoners, more than half of them Kurds, have been on hunger strike for over a month in protest against their detention without trial and their living conditions which are described as intolerable.

The Danish minister said the hunger strike "is a reaction to the conditions in this prison, where illegal interrogation methods, including torture, are being used. Food and water given to the prisoners are of a bad quality and many illnesses, notably tuberculosis, are not adequately treated," Mr Petersen said.

The Government decided to intervene after confirmation of the conditions in Buca by a Turkish human rights organisation. (AFP)

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Television crews descend on Los Angeles court to relay trial of a global celebrity

# O.J. Simpson jury allowed to see murder pictures

A JUDGE ruled yesterday that jurors in the O.J. Simpson case can see bloody photographs of the victims and the crime scene during opening statements, despite defence objections.

Lance Ito, the Superior Court Judge, rejected a defence request to make the prosecution use diagrams instead of photographs of the crime scene during opening statements in the trial of Mr Simpson, accused of murdering his former wife Nicole and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Twenty television crews, two novelists, more than 100 reporters and a comedian on assignment for the BBC, gathered yesterday to bring opening statements to a global audience that until last June knew Mr Simpson only as a former football player and bit-part actor, if at all.

Lawyers who have unavoidably become celebrities in their own right were expected to seize the chance to impress on the jury their version of what happened on the night of June 12 last year when Nicole Simpson and Goldman were stabbed to death outside her home in west Los Angeles.

The case, which has enthralled millions with its ingredients of wealth, fame, violence and tragedy, generated a palpable tension in court and giddy excitement outside as a handful of members of the public who had entered a lottery for courtroom seats were told they had won.

Marcia Clark, the prosecutor, was also due to go on the offensive with photographic evidence from the murder scene and a detailed summary of the wealth of circumstantial evidence, including blood DNA analysis, which she says links Mr Simpson to the crime.

## Giles Whittell reports from Los Angeles as the O.J. Simpson murder trial gets under way

son's vaunted legal "dream team" were expected to hit back with the "three Cs" defence, alleging that police rendered the prosecution's evidence worthless through confusion, contamination and corruption.

The physical evidence at the prosecution's disposal, including bloodstains found at Mr Simpson's mansion the morning after the murders, is strong enough for one expert, Victor Bugliosi, the former Los Angeles District Attorney, to have said that he would be "embarrassed to try the case".

But Mr Simpson's lawyers will exploit the fact that there were no witnesses to the murders, picking holes in the credibility of DNA analysis, accusing police of slipshod handling of evidence and in

one eagerly awaited show-down, suggesting that a detective planted incriminating evidence in the garden.

The lead defence lawyer, Johnnie Cochran, was expected to allege a "rush to judgement" by police, who claimed they visited Mr Simpson's house on June 13 simply to tell him of his former wife's death. The defence contends that after their arrival, detectives flouted proper procedures and violated Mr Simpson's rights by entering his grounds without a warrant.

The sheer weight of interest in the case, which a third of adult Americans have said they will follow daily, has raised the stakes in what would have been a straightforward murder trial but for the defendant's enormous wealth and popularity.

Women's rights activists have settled on it as a test case that they hope will demonstrate a link between alleged spousal abuse and a readiness to kill. Blacks have shown themselves consistently more sympathetic than whites towards Mr Simpson, who has pleaded innocent, bringing a potentially explosive racial dimension to the trial. The case has sparked fierce debate on whether, by hiring top-flight legal talent that has challenged the prosecution every step of the way, Mr Simpson has, in effect, bought lenient treatment.

Broader issues took a back seat yesterday, however, as lawyers grappled with the evidence in front of the jury for the first time. Leslie Abramson, a defence lawyer commenting on the case for the *Los Angeles Times*, said that Marcia Clark's task was "to impress them that science is smart, science answers questions, science solves problems... and isn't woo-woo."



O.J. Simpson, the former footballer and actor at the centre of the Los Angeles courtroom drama

## Bloodstains found at home of accused

SOMETIME between 9.45 and 11pm on Sunday, June 12 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were murdered in a violent knife attack on the tiled path leading to her home at 875 South Bundy Avenue in Brentwood, a wealthy western suburb of Los Angeles. There were no witnesses, but Nicole's white Akita dog was later found wandering the streets with bloodied paws.

When police visited the mansion of O.J. Simpson, Nicole's estranged hus-

band, the next morning, they found bloodstains on his driveway and white Ford Bronco. A caretaker, Kato Kaelin, told them Mr Simpson was away on business in Chicago, but reported hearing three loud thumps outside his cottage at the edge of the compound at about 10.40 the previous evening.

Mr Simpson, who had been picked up by a limousine at 11pm to be taken to the

airport, returned to Los Angeles on the Monday, having been told of the killings. After being interviewed by police for three hours without a lawyer present, he was released without charge.

When a warrant for his arrest was issued four days later, Robert Shapiro, his lawyer, promised that he would surrender at police headquarters to avoid the humiliation of handcuffs. Instead, accompanied by his friend and former footballer, Al Cowling, he led police on the now-famous car chase.

## Publicity sought before the hearing

- June 12, 1994: Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are murdered.
- June 13: O. J. Simpson returns from Chicago, explains alibi to police.
- June 17: Mr Simpson flees when arrest warrant issued. Apprehended after televised chase in Los Angeles.
- July 8: Municipal court Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell orders Mr Simpson to stand trial for murders. He pleads not guilty.
- July 20: Simpson lawyers set up free number and offer \$500,000 (£333,000) reward for information on "real killer or killers".
- July 30: Grand jury transcripts with claims that Mr Simpson stalked and abused ex-wife are revealed.
- August 24: Defence hotline disconnected after receiving 250,000 calls but no leads.
- September 9: Gil Garcetti,

### CHRONOLOGY

- district attorney, says he will not seek death penalty for Mr Simpson.
- September 26: Jury selection starts.
- October: Paula Barbieri, Mr Simpson's current girlfriend, appears in *Playboy*.
- October 3: Superior Court Judge Lance Ito threatens to ban TV coverage of the trial because of inaccurate reporting.
- December 8: Jury selection is completed with a final panel of seven blacks, four whites and one Hispanic.
- January 8: Simpson sources announce forthcoming publication of his jailhouse memoir *I Want To Tell You*.
- January 18: Judge Ito allows some of the prosecution's evidence of alleged spousal abuse by Mr Simpson to be heard in court.
- January 23: Opening statements.



Nicole Simpson: killed outside her home

## Republican plan to cut UN cash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SENIOR Republicans in Congress have introduced legislation that would reduce America's payments to the United Nations by up to \$1 billion (£666 million) a year, almost certainly affecting direct American funding of peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Central America.

The strategy, challenging the Clinton Administration's handling of foreign policy, would substantially alter Washington's calculations of its contributions to the UN and could seriously affect the organisation if any other large donors decide to follow suit.

Madeline Albright, American Ambassador to the UN, has denounced the Republican plan which she said "could eliminate, by our own calculation, all US payments for UN peacekeeping" and lead to "budgetary anarchy" in New York.

Although recent opinion polls show that the electorate is divided over UN peacekeeping issues, memories of the catastrophic experience in Somalia and a lingering suspicion that the American intervention in Haiti could still go wrong are seen as a signal that there is little support for Washington's involvement in such missions.

## Clinton forced to prove he still has relevance

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, in his State of the Union speech tonight, has to reinvent himself for the umpteenth time and prove to the American people that he is still relevant, despite the Republican take-over of Congress.

The speech was still going through draft after draft at the White House yesterday as Mr Clinton and his speechwriters struggled to present his theme in a way, as one of them put it, that would be more vision than laundry list.

Mr Clinton faces the extraordinarily challenging task of trying to change the public perception of a sitting President. He is widely viewed as a flip-flopper on issues and an old-style, big-spending liberal at heart, rather than the "New Democrat" he claims to be. This is his last chance, barring a war or crisis, to address a vast national audience before the election campaign season opens in earnest. It is, beyond question, the most important speech of Mr Clinton's presidency, Leon Panetta, his chief of staff, said.

Wretchedly for him, it must be delivered before a joint session of Congress where the Republican majority is unlikely to reward him with repeated standing ovations. To find a precedent, one has to go back to Harry Truman in 1948 who,

after a similar loss of both Houses of Congress, faced the hurdle of projecting strong leadership. To do so, he took the early Cold War initiatives and cast the Republicans as a do-nothing bunch. Now the Republicans have their "Contract for America" and Newt Gingrich, who has personalised the office of Speaker as nobody before. He will be staring down from the podium over Mr Clinton's shoulder tonight.

Weeks of soul-searching have preceded the speech. Mr Clinton has sought guidance from a wide range of scholars, politicians, religious leaders, retired generals and old friends, but the only one everyone remembers is a motivational guru who inspires his followers to walk barefoot over red-hot coals.

Mr Clinton will be combative at times, especially on welfare reform, a favourite target of Republicans. He does not believe that most Americans really want to reduce welfare in a way that simply punishes poor people. Nor will he tolerate efforts to repeal some of his most prized accomplishments, including the ban on 19 assault weapons and a national service programme that pays college fees in return for community service. He will push his so-called

Middle Class Bill of Rights, unveiled last month, which includes tax cuts for families with young children and tax deductions to pay for college education, retirement accounts and job retraining. He will seek compromise with Republicans on healthcare reform by trying to rescue some insurance reforms from last year's fiasco.

Key elements of the speech were still up in the air yesterday, including whether to recommend adding up to a dollar to the minimum wage, now \$4.25 (£2.70) an hour. Mr Clinton will brag about the economy, which has produced 5.5 million new jobs, and his reduction of government, which has cut the payroll by 100,000 and is remoulding or scrapping dozens of federal programmes.

Foreign policy will receive relatively short shrift in the 40-minute address, but Mr Clinton will ask Republicans for bipartisan help in emphasising the necessity for America to remain engaged in the world after the Cold War, to build a coalition of the centre and to defend and advance America's interests. He will urge the continued promotion of democracy in Russia. He will ask for help in passing \$40 billion in loan guarantees to bail out Mexico.



Workman: Difficult landings at 100 mph

## Lost post for woman navy pilot

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE first woman fighter pilot in America to qualify for combat duty on board an aircraft carrier has been reassigned after having difficulty landing at 100mph on the heaving deck.

Lieutenant Shannon Workman, 28, who flew combat patrols over southern Iraq, has been ordered to leave the USS *Enterprise* after a year of duty in the Adriatic and return to land-based duty in the United States. A male pilot has also been transferred.

## Tributes to matriarch of Kennedy dynasty pour in

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EVERY flag in Boston was at half-mast yesterday, only one of many tributes to Rose Kennedy, matriarch of one of America's greatest political dynasties, who died this week.

Her death brought sweeping eulogies from every political quarter and resulted in an intense re-examination of the triumphs and epic tragedies surrounding the Kennedy clan. "Very few Americans have endured as much personal sacrifice for their country as Rose Kennedy," said President Clinton. "She played an extraordinary role in the life of an extraordinary family."

John Kenneth Galbraith, a former adviser to President Kennedy, said there would be no doubt of her place in history. "She will be remembered as the mother of the most politically spectacular and successful family of our time," he said. Thomas Menino, the Mayor of Boston, described her as "an inspiration to many Americans, proud of the many accomplishments of her family, and showing courage during tragedies."

Mrs Kennedy, who died of pneumonia, aged 104, in the family compound at Hyannis Port on Cape Cod, remained a woman of substance, style and privacy throughout her life.

But, as her close friend Marie Greene once said, she was also a woman of emotional steel. "She may look as fragile as a violet, but don't be deceived for a minute," she said. "If Rose had been a boy, she, not Jack, would have been the first Catholic President of the United States."

Her ambition for her family helped to create a breed of women quite able to tolerate the flagrant infidelities of their men. Rose herself presided with icy calm over her straying husband, Joseph, whose affairs were legion. One of his much-publicised dalliances was with the actress Gloria



Kennedy: tolerated her husband's infidelities

Swanson. Among others, her sons Robert and John were later involved with Marilyn Monroe.

"I think Rose was completely detached from the reality of life and was a very strange woman," said one Kennedy biographer who asked not to be named. He said Mrs Kennedy had made a deal with her husband that she would help create a dynasty and ignore his indiscretions in return for a life of distinction. She would be taken to visit the Queen or the Pope while being allowed to control the purse-strings and spend large amounts of the family fortune on expensive jewellery and clothes.

The strictures of her Roman Catholic upbringing combined with the accepted debauchery of her husband. It has been said, helped spawn a family destined for difficulties. There is little doubt that it also gave Mrs Kennedy the strength to deal with the spate of tragedies which saw four of her nine children die in their prime. When John was shot in Dallas on November 22, 1963, she returned to the compound, masking her grief with immediate practicality, even remembering extra pairs of stockings for her daughters to wear at his funeral.

Obituary, page 21



From January 24th EVA Air's renowned service to Bangkok, Taipei and the Far East leaves three times weekly from our new home at Heathrow Terminal 3. There, we'll welcome you aboard our new fleet of luxury 747s where you can

enjoy your personal choice of four international classes of travel. Fly the Wings of Taiwan, you'll find no better way to reach your destination in comfort. For reservations and information call us now on 0171-833 9610.

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## A luxury weekend break for 20p

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As an alternative to a weekend break, you can choose to receive a discount of 20 per cent off the brochure price of your holiday.

To take advantage of this promotion you must collect four of the six tokens which appear today and each day until Monday. A selection of our holidays appears below, with brochure codes and discounted prices in brackets. For further details, and details of the weekend breaks, ring the brochures and information hotline on 01369-707711.

**Five-week safari through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe (ADS).** Game parks, Zambezi, Lake Malawi, Victoria Falls, £695 to £745 (£556 to £596); food £125/£135. Other safaris cover east and southern Africa, including a ten-week journey from £1,345 (£1,076) plus £75 for food.

**Short Break: Marrakech (CKS).** Two nights or more, from £400 (£320).

**Morocco: High Atlas Traverse (STE).** This 13-day tour includes a nine-day drive to the remote Air Boureges Valley. From £1,080 (£865). Other offerings include a ten-day trip incorporating a short trek in the Jebel Sahro mountain ranges for £1,055 (£845), a ten-day Land Rover Safari from Marrakech along the Draa river course for £1,250 (£999) and a 13-day natural history tour of Morocco with the naturalist Martin Jacoby, for £1,565 (£1,252).

**A 13-day Zambia walking safari with a naturalist costs from £2,595 (£2,076).**

**African Odyssey (RCL).** From Nairobi to Mombasa, then by ship to Zanzibar, Madagascar, the island of Réunion, Durban, Mossel Bay and Cape Town. From £2,784 (£2,228).

**Zimbabwe Panorama (CAR).** Comprehensive 17-day journey including the Eastern Highlands, Great Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls, then safari to the Matobo Hills, Hwange National Park and Lake Kariba. £2,800 (£2,240).

**Also camping safaris in Zimbabwe, Botswana and eight-day air safaris in southern Africa.**

**The Springbok covers the Transvaal, the Kruger National Park and the Durban beaches. The Karibuni Safari stays in lodges in romantic surroundings; the Mauritus seven-night break includes flights, food, drinks, watersports, horse-riding and golf from £1,425 (£1,140).**

**Alaskan Wonder (TKA).** A 14-day journey to mountains, lakes, glaciers and fjords. From £701 (£561). Other tours include a 14-day journey from New York to Maine, through cities and national parks, Amish country and the rural South. A ten-day California Adventure offers mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, white water rafting and horse riding. Frontier Canada spends 21 days travelling from Quebec to British Columbia.

**Toronto short break (CKS):** Flights plus four or more nights in five-star hotels, from £485 (£388).

**Harbours of our Heritage (RCL).** A 16-day round trip aboard the Royal Odyssey from New York to Maine, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Boston and Rhode Island. £2,735 (£2,189).

**River cruise: St Louis to Memphis (DOQ).** A five-night journey. £520 (£416). Other

**Cruise: Asian Capitals & Vietnam (ORL).** Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and Vietnam. From £2,250 (£1,620).

**The Imperial China cruise begins with a pre-cruise stay in Beijing and ends with a stay in Hong Kong. £2,434 (£1,947).**

**All New Zealand (APT).** Comprehensive 18-day tour visiting glaciers, Mount Cook, Milford Sound, Christchurch and Wellington. Two nights in the Bay of Islands, with a cruise. £2,085 (£1,668). Western Australia: Last Frontier is a 22-day luxury tour from Perth to Darwin with many two-night stopovers and 47 meals included in the price. Highlights include Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort, the Ord River Scheme and Broome. £2,359 (£1,887). Other tours include Highlights of Australia, starting at Sydney or Cairns and covering a vast area from the Great Barrier Reef to Ayers Rock, Kuranda, the Outer Barrier Reef and Melbourne in 15 days.

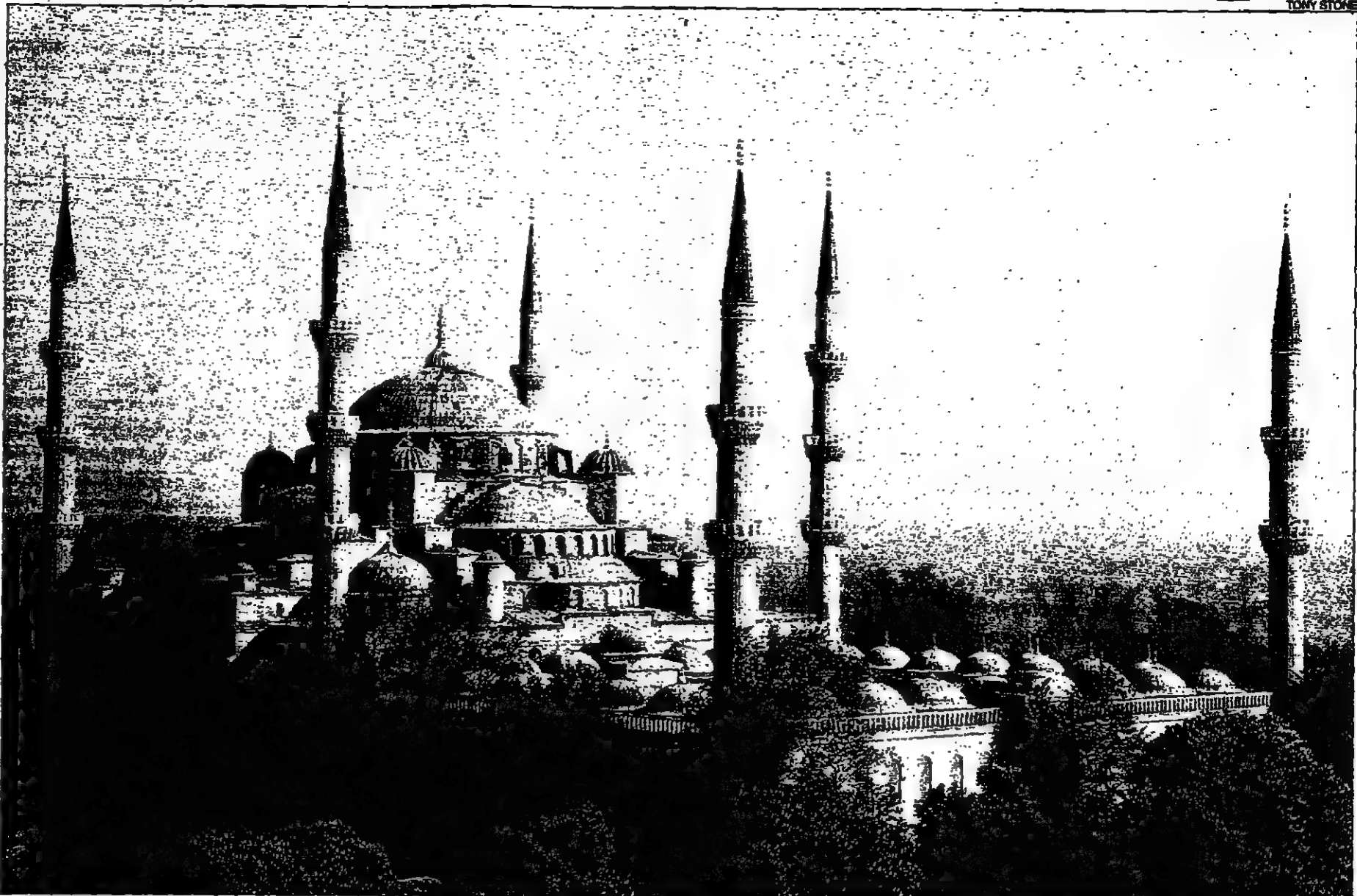
**Indian Experience (CKI).** An eight-day tour to Delhi, Jaipur and the Taj Mahal. From £815 (£625). Other tours in India include a 17-day journey through the forts and palaces of Rajasthan and a 13-day train journey across the vast Indian plains via Agra, Gwalior and Varanasi to Calcutta.

**Sri Lanka: The Enchanted Isle, Royal Nepal and The Spirit of Tibet** are among other tours to the region, which also take in Pakistan, Bhutan and culinary and

**gos Islands and Peru.** Other tours cover remote areas of South America and the 15-day Cuban Experience, exploring cities and countryside.

**City breaks include Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago, staying in five-star Sheraton hotels.**

**Cruise: Natural Treasures of Costa Rica and Panama (SEC).** Through the Panama Canal, 11 days visiting the San Blas Islands, the Darien Region, Isla Coiba National Park and Manuel Antonio National Park.



Set between Europe and Asia, Istanbul is one of the destinations you may be able to choose for your 20p weekend break

**Centre Highlights is a five-day tour taking in Ayers Rock, Uluru National Park, Watarrka National Park, Kings Canyon and Kings Creek cattle station, for £445 (£356).**

**Cruise: Splendours of New Zealand (ORL).** A 12-day cruise from the geothermal mud pools and spouting geysers of Rotorua to the town of Napier, Dunedin and Christchurch and the glacier-carved fjords of Milford. Dusky and Doubtful Sounds. Includes a two-night stay in Auckland. £2,195 (£1,580).

**Cruise: New Zealand and Australia.** A 20-day tour that starts in Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island, cruises the intricate waterways of Marlborough Sounds and calls at Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and the Bay of Islands before heading for the Great Barrier Reef and ending with a three-night stay in Sydney. The Australian & The Java Sea cruise explores the islands of Indonesia

**Highlights of Lebanon, a five-day tour, includes the ports of Tripoli and Byblos, the 2,000-year-old Cedar Trees and the Roman city of Bealbeck. From £695 (£556).**

**Grand Tour of the Middle East is a 15-day journey focusing on the contrasting countries of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Highlights include the rose-red city of Petra, Crac des Chevaliers, the ancient city of Byblos and Lebanon's cedar forests. From £1,795 (£1,436).**

**Highlights of Israel: eight days visiting Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada, Jericho, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth and Tel Aviv. From £1,095 (£876).**

**Splendours of the Near East: a 12-day journey concentrating on Jordan and Israel. Highlights include Kerak's Crusader castle, Mount Nebo, Petra, Bethlehem, Tiberias on the shores of the Galilee and Jerusalem. From £1,495 (£1,195).**

**Short Break: Dubai (CKS).** The old town of Dubai still retains the legendary mystique of Arabia with alleyways and ancient souks, while the city also has fabulous beaches, parks and gardens. Two or more nights, from £590 (£472) including flights.

**The Italian Lakes (CKE).** Eight days exploring private and public gardens around Lake Como and Lake Maggiore. From £1,025 (£820). Other tours include garden visits in the Côte d'Azur, manor houses and gardens near Lisbon, eight days in Madeira and a sky-rail journey through Andalusia.

**Andalusia & Morocco: Moorish Highlights (SEB).** A 15-day escorted tour. £2,099 (£1,680).

**Grand Tour of France (INI).** A 17-day tour including Normandy, Mont St Michel, the Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Lourdes, Nîmes, Avignon,

**Provence, Nice, the Riviera, the Route Napoleon, Reims and Paris. £1,315 (£1,052).** Other tours cover Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

**Winter European Highlights (TDE).** A two-week coach-hotel tour through France, Italy, Austria, Germany and Holland. £520 (£496). Also winter ski holidays, and a variety of coach-camping and Deckerhome tours to Europe and North Africa.

**Skiing: Kirchberg — Austria (STD).** Seven nights with rooms on a multi-share basis, including half-board, flights and transfers. £295 (£236).

**Other ski breaks to Andorra, Switzerland and France. Flights included; two or more nights in four or five-star deluxe hotels, from £280 (£224).** Other short breaks to Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Prague, Amsterdam, Bruges, Brussels, Budapest, Vienna and Istanbul.

**Cruises: a wide variety of cruises in all parts of Europe, from the Baltic to the Bosphorus and including rivers. (SEC, RCL, FOC, SHC).**

## BROCHURE KEY

African Decker Safaris (ADS); Australian Pacific Tours (APT); Caribbean Connections (CBC); Carrier Tours (CEL); Cox & Kings — India (CKI); Cox & Kings — Latin America (CKL); Cox & Kings — Middle East (CKM); Cox & Kings — Short Breaks (CKS); Cox & Kings — Boaty & Gardens (CKB); Fred Olsen Cruise Lines (FOC); Insight International (INI); Orient Line Cruises (ORL); Royal Cruise Line (RCL); Ski Top Deck (STD); Steppes East (STE); Special Expeditions Cruises (SEC); Swan Hellenic Cruises (SHC); Top Deck — Europe (TDE); Top Deck — Africa (TDA); Trek America (TKA).

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: How do I book my holiday?

A: All communication and booking forms must be sent to The Times Travel Offer, Cox & Kings Travel, Fourth Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greenock Place, London SW1P 1PH. All booking forms must clearly state whether you would like the 20 per cent discount on your holiday or the 20p weekend break. Remember, if you want to get a weekend break for 20p, the value of the main holiday you book must be at least £750 per person. If you choose the weekend break, please indicate which weekend you would like to book.

Q: How do I pay for a 20 per cent discounted holiday?

A: You pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance ten weeks prior to your departure. All cheques must be made payable to Cox & Kings Travel Ltd and sent to the above address. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens. Your invoice will be for the balance of the holiday cost, less the discount, less the deposit paid. If you wish to pay by credit card (Mastercard & Visa only), a surcharge of 1.5 per cent will be levied.

Q: How do I pay if I book a full price holiday with a weekend break for 20p?

A: You pay the relevant tour operator's deposit for your main holiday at the time of booking. If you are travelling on your weekend break after your main holiday you must pay the balance for your main holiday ten weeks prior to your departure, plus the 20p for your weekend.

## PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

● African Decker Safaris is the only African overland operator using the Deckerhome, which combines transport with living accommodation for 20 people in one secure vehicle.

● Australian Pacific Tours, in operation since 1927, is Australia's largest coach-touring company.

● Caribbean Connections was formed over 20 years ago with the aim of providing the finest holidays in the Caribbean.

● Carrier Tours are specialists in travel to Africa and these tours can be found in their "Aspects of Africa" brochure.

● Celebrity Cruises have a trio of superior luxury-class vessels to meet all the likely demands of the cruise traveller well into the next century.

● Cox & Kings is the world's oldest travel company. Tours include India & The Subcontinent, Latin America, The Middle East and Short Breaks.

● The Delta Queen Steamboat Company has operated paddle steamers the length and breadth of the American river system since 1880.

● Fred Olsen Cruise Lines has been linked with seafaring worldwide for many years.

● Insight International began selling coach tours in the UK in 1990, having become well known in Australia, New Zealand and Canada since 1975.

● Orient Lines offer the opportunity to discover new and exciting destinations while enjoying the spectacular comfort of a luxury liner.

● The Royal Cruise Line is renowned for the casual elegance of its ships and for warm, friendly service.

● Top Deck is a specialist ski operator to Andorra, Austria, Switzerland and France.

● Special Expeditions is a specialist all-ship American cruise company.

● Steppes East specialises in the Silk Road, Central Asia, Mongolia, Bhutan, China and Tibet, Russia and Morocco.

● Swan Hellenic combines car hire with an air holiday to offer more of the world's heritage.

● Top Deck has over 20 years experience as a specialist operator for coach / hotel, coach / camping and Deckerhome holidays in Europe.

● Trek America has operated North American Adventures for over 25 years.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Bookings accompanied by four Times tokens and the relevant discount should be sent by post to: The Times Travel Offer, Cox & Kings Travel, Fourth Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greenock Place, London SW1P 1PH and be received by 28 February 1995.

2. The discount applies only to the specific tours in The Times Travel Promotion listed in the pack you will receive and excludes any other holiday, insurance, accommodation, car hire (except where offered as part of the tour), special occasions, child discounts, gratuities, excursions, visas or cancellation charges.

3. Offer applies to new bookings only.

4. Insurers must be fully insured for the booked holiday and forward details of the policy arranged with your booking form. You may arrange your own insurance or use the relevant tour operator's.

5. Booking contracts are with the relevant holiday tour operator subject to the booking conditions detailed in the brochure.

6. The Times Travel Promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

7. Responsibility for the accuracy of information in any brochure lies with the tour operator. Operators reserve the right to decline to issue discounts.

8. Responsibility for the management, organisation and operation of the holidays rests with the relevant tour operator and not with Times Newspapers Ltd or, unless it is their holiday, with Cox & Kings Travel Ltd. The tour operator is the organiser for the purpose of the Package Travel, Package Holiday and Package Tour Regulation of 1992.

9. Payments must be made by cheque or Mastercard and Visa only, payable to Cox & Kings Travel Ltd. Credit Card payments will incur a 1.5 per cent surcharge.

10. Times Newspapers Ltd cannot be responsible for any disagreement you may have with any travel operator included in the offer and accepts no liability for any loss suffered by any reader who books a holiday. Disputes must be settled directly with the travel operator.

11. Incomplete, illegible or late applications will not be accepted. Neither Times Newspapers Ltd nor Cox & Kings are responsible for lost or delayed bookings. Proof of postage is not accepted as proof of receipt.

12. The discount offered in The Times Travel Promotion has no cash value. It is not refundable or transferable.

13. Promotion open to UK residents only.

14. Payment must be made in accordance with the conditions in the relevant brochure.

15. All operators in this offer are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority or in association with the Passenger Shipping Association.

16. No cash is refundable for failure to take the weekend break and the value of the weekend break will be 20p.

17. Only the relevant weekend break assigned to your main holiday will be bookable at 20p. Where readers wish to book another weekend break the full price will apply.

## HOW TO APPLY

● To take advantage of this promotion, first collect four of the six tokens which will be appearing in The Times up to next Monday.

● You will be entitled to a 20 per cent discount on your main listed holiday, or if your holiday is worth more than the necessary amount you will be entitled instead to buy a weekend break for just 20p, the price of The Times.

● When you have your tokens, ring the brochures hotline on 01369-707711 for details of the holidays you are interested in.

You will be sent full details of the weekend breaks with your brochures. An information pack will also be sent to you which will give full details of how to book your holiday.





David Butler resigned from the Oxford and Cambridge University Club and found himself a celebrity

On January 11 *The Times* published an open letter from an unimportant don, resigning from a relatively unimportant institution. It seemed only a small pebble, dropped in a small pond. But that was to underestimate the power of *The Times* and the appeal of the issue at stake.

Over the last ten days, a strange, if very transitory, prominence has been thrust upon me, simply because I ventured to say publicly that, even to a moderate, middle-of-the-road character, it was distasteful to continue association with an Oxford and Cambridge Club that excluded almost half the members of those universities — and with a club where those who ran it seemed to take no notice of a three-to-one expression of views by its members.

Telephone messages have flooded in, together with requests to broadcast at home and overseas: casual conversations and, still more, a host of letters, show that the article struck a reverberating chord.

It is the letters that are most interesting. A few are from friends — some of them long-lost — but more are from strangers. Some send the letters of resignation which they wrote privately (and unacknowledged) years ago. These are often far more eloquent than anything I wrote. Some ask for advice on how to carry on the fight. Some simply express indignation that their club

can exclude 40 per cent of Oxbridge entrants. Some tell tales of domestic pressure to resign or not to join. One suggests that the Harvard and Princeton Clubs of New York (both mixed) should withdraw reciprocal facilities. A number offer to put me up for membership of the Reform Club or the National Liberal Club, proudly pointing out that both these institutions have succeeded in going mixed without any trouble (and even asserting that they are better run with women on the committee).

A few quotations may give the flavour: "Unless the committee gives an immediate and clear lead towards the more positive and equitable treatment of women, I shall not be renewing my membership."

"I have no objection to men having their own club but I do object to their using my university's name."

"I was insulted to be invited to join the club as a second-class citizen merely because of my gender."

## My moment of fame

Let the women join



David Butler's open letter of resignation last month

□ [After a threat to resign] "The discomfort is exacerbated by the fact that I use the club quite a bit for entertaining, usually foreign guests who look around the coffee-room and ask about the position of women. It adds embarrassment to shame to describe a situation that is no longer a charmingly curious English eccentricity, but indefensibly unfair."

□ [From a distinguished old lady] "I have been living with this sort of nonsense since I came up to Girton in 1921. At the age of 91 I wonder which end of the 20th century this is."

Only one of the letters sent directly

to me has been hostile — and only a handful of those so far selected for publication in *The Times* letter columns. (Alas! In the last few days the Garrick issue has intruded — a quite different matter since the Garrick is not based on a mixed university and the Garrick members voted heavily to stay single.)

If I were indeed leading a campaign, I would have wished for more public adversaries, since it is plain that the three-to-one majority of members who wish the club to go mixed would be fortified by remarks such as these:

"I want to drink in peace. I don't wish to be surrounded by headmistresses and female dons. Do you? ... I do wish women did not try to run everything. They should restrict that to their families and homes."

"The average male member of the Oxford and Cambridge Club will have nowhere to lay his head with a guarantee of angst-ridden [sic] good fellowship if the screaming horde have their way."

One of the oddest features of the affair has been the silence of the club. I have received nothing in reply to my private or my public letter to the chairman and, far more important, the wider membership who have written to the club or to the press have had no explanation of the club's attitude.

I resigned on the central issue of an Oxford and Cambridge Club denying membership to so large a proportion of those at the universities. But the trigger that provoked both the timing and the nature of my going was the democratic deficit in the running of the club. Despite an overwhelming voicing of opinion by the members the general committee hid behind the constitutional rules they had devised. Fifteen months passed without any positive move to give recognition to the popular will. It is true that legally the rules cannot be changed before 1998. But there could have been some gesture of goodwill, some statement of intent.

I have resigned and have no standing to do more. It is possible that legal action or pressure from the university authorities, embarrassed at the use of their names and their emblems, will have an effect. But much the best solution lies in spontaneous action from within the club and its members. It is an institution worth saving.

## Poor people, poor diets

Health guidelines are no good to those who can't afford the food

Every time I see one of those concerned, caring "messages" on television, purring to us about the benefits of wholesome bread, about the benefits of fresh fruit and veg, about the wisdom of changing from full-fat milk to skimmed milk, I feel the bile rise.

This is not because I object to the foods proposed or even to the idea itself of "healthy eating", although some evangelical healthy eaters can be a bit much to take. Unlike Julia Child, who is something of the American Elizabeth David (only without, among other things, her wry style), I have not taken a public vow to eat daily a bowlful of delicious, artery-clogging fat on point of principle. You may be relieved to hear that I do not subscribe to the view that the anti-fat, pro-lean dietary recommendations are yet another insidious example of the creeping PC that is apparently taking over all aspects of our life.

What I object to in these government broadcasts is the hypocrisy. With each nudging broadcast I am reminded of the insulting idiosyncrasy of spending millions on telling people to eat brown rather than white bread, instead of directing those funds to those who actually don't have anything to eat, or whose simple need is for sustenance rather than nutritional guidance.

I felt the same way when I had the builders in some time ago and the council sent some man around to check whether the environmental health structures were being obeyed. I understand the principle, but how can the number of doors, say, between lavatory and kitchen be deemed so crucial to cleanliness, godliness and straightforward decency when at the same time it is perfectly all right to leave people sleeping in the streets, with no loo and no kitchen, never mind two doors between them? Everything's being dealt with back to front.

But as I say, I do not necessarily disapprove of the healthy-eating message itself. When I've found myself sitting next to doctors at dinner, they always insist that in disease the crucial factors are genes, and then diet. I am persuaded that there is indeed sense in eating food that might just minimise one's chances of having a heart attack, developing cancer or high blood pressure — or, rather, avoiding food that shortens the odds. Within reason, of course, a fat-free life is an unimaginable one; moreover, all forms

of extremism are suspect, and possibly unhealthy. I believe in the carrot and stick-of-chocolate approach.

The difficulty is that it's not always possible to isolate diet from other factors. A report has just been published by the Health Education Authority which seems to indicate that ethnic minorities have not absorbed the healthy-eating message as readily as the rest of the population. Now, it may well be that many of these people don't speak English as a first language and don't therefore understand precisely what they are being told about salads and granary bread. But it seems more likely that the major factor in the worse health, lighter babies, more stillborn deliveries and infant deaths among these groups is poverty. Surely if we concentrate on dietary rather than economic analysis of the factors

we are doing nothing, really, to better their lot or their health.

Cultural issues enter here, too. Many West Indian women, for example, might not welcome being told by the doctor that they should lose weight. Thinness is not considered as desirable by their culture as it is, obsessively, by ours. The suggestion of weight loss cannot but smack of cultural imperialism. And too often, as all women know, the distinction between what is too fat for fashionable clothes and what is too fat for health is confused.

But for all of us there is something bulging about being told how much we should weigh. Even if doctors feel they have our interests, and possible longevity, at heart, bossiness about diet seems guaranteed to offend. It is not just the anti-welfare Right that objects to a nanny state admonishing us about saturated fats. There are as many who see the health guidelines as class war by other means. Out go chips and burgers, pies and anything in batter, in come grilled chicken and salad. Desist from lard and reach for the olive oil instead.

Those wary of Tony Blair would no doubt count among their concerns the sort of food they presume he and his family eat from their scrubbed pine Islingtonian table. In the same way, John Major's celebrated pinto in the Little Chef was the best, most immediate way of establishing his bona fides. Never mind Clause Four, this is what people really care about. It isn't just armies that march on their stomachs.



NIGELLA LAWSON

## How long is a string quartet?

Fifty years, in the Borodin's case.

Joanna Pitman attends the jamboree in Moscow for the famous ensemble

You could have heard a samovar drip, the expectant silence was so tense. Two thousand Russian men, women and children perched on the edges of their seats, dozens crammed three deep on the balcony, necks craned, eyes peeled, hearts thumping with anticipation. The door swung open on to the stage of the gargantuan hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, heralding the appearance of four of the brightest stars in Russia's musical firmament.

At last four gentlemen shuffled out onto the stage, television cameras swooped in and the crowd came to life with a great yell of delight. For the visitor unversed in the

ways of Russian superstar adoration, this seemed an extraordinary display of appreciation for a string quartet.

But then the Borodin Quartet is no ordinary quartet. It has been in existence for 50 years, and is probably the longest performing chamber ensemble in the world. The players are honoured by musicologists all over the world, they inspire the critics to constant gushings and last week they had their chests decorated with medals from Boris Yeltsin.

Individually, a more unlikely group of idols it would be hard to imagine. The senior man is the cellist Valentin Berlinsky, 70 years old, white-haired and small but perky



Four men and their bows: for years the Soviet authorities restricted the quartet's travel, earnings and repertoire

and much given to planting his lips on the hands of attractive ladies.

Then comes the viola player, Dmitri Shebalin, a whisker away from his 70th birthday and a man with an uncanny resemblance to the late Robert Maxwell, thinning brilliant hair and the stocky build

and expression of a scrum-half anticipating a hard afternoon in the mud. Next comes Andrei Abramov, the second violin, a Moscow man also on the wrong side of 60, bespectacled and with a beard that looks like the work of an enthusiastic topiast and a full head of hair that is more salt than pepper. Finally, the baby of the group, Mikhail Kopelman, first violin, a Ukrainian Bob Monkhouse with jet black eyebrows and a dazzling smile, himself closing in on his own half century.

While each is a superb string player in his own right, the Borodins have always performed collectively as a quartet. Their history of survival under Soviet control and their new lease of life under capitalism, as well as the quality of their sound have turned them into a Russian living national treasure.

Thursday night marked their 50th anniversary concert and performance number four thousand and something. The quartet came together in 1945, originally as the quartet of the National Philharmonic and went through several variations on membership. Mstislav Rostropovich was the cellist for the first two weeks before Berlinsky took over, and Shebalin joined in 1953, the year that the quartet was renamed after Alexander Borodin.

Following the defection to the West of one violinist and the illness of the other, the quartet recruited Kopelman and Abramov in the early 1970s and then went underground for two years, reestablishing and reworking their repertoire. While Soviet restrictions limited their overseas travel, forced them to hand over more than half of their official earnings and prevented them from playing work by composers such as Schoenberg, they endeavored themselves to the state authorities by concentrating on a repertoire of Russian music, particularly Shostakovich.

To mark this 50th jubilee, Moscow's finest tramped through the snow in minus

4C in their racoon-skin coats and rabbit-skin hats to listen and pay their respects. Rostropovich was there to perform the Schubert quintet in C Major with them, and dozens of luminaries of the Russian musical scene sat mesmerised in the front rows, leaping to their feet afterwards along with hundreds of women and children offering flowers, to deliver speeches and eulogies that extended the programme by a good two hours.

There was pean of praise from the mayor of Moscow, a performance of chamber music by fantastically talented children from the Russian Academy of Music, ceremonial handouts of embroidered capes, endless bunches of roses, carved wooden ducks, bottles of cognac, even highly sought-after bunches of bananas. And then when the dancers had finished their Argentinian knife dance and the stand-up comics had done their slapstick mimicry and the fifteenth speech had been delivered, the quartet, plus Rostropovich, bobbing scepticisms and attendant hangers-on, re-

paired to a hotel for a "gala dinner". This was hosted by a dark and silky party in immaculate evening dress who, I was reliably informed, ranks high in underworld circles and whose confidence runs to having his satanic face emblazoned on every one of the copious number of bottles of champagne that were popped open that night.

"It still feels as if it's 1945 to me," Berlinsky said. Seventy years old and close to tears he may have been, but Berlinsky needs to preserve all his energies for the many more concerts to come. The Borodin Quartet is scheduled to do an overseas anniversary 1995 tour that would make even musicians 30 years younger blanch. They will ricochet around Europe for the next 12 months playing 95 concerts in 62 cities. Their first stop is Britain (they have a particular affection for Aldeburgh) and they will be performing in Abbotsolme, Rugby, Birmingham and at the Wigmore

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### The gala dinner was hosted by a dark figure from underworld circles

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The days when ulcer sufferers had to subsist on junket, rice pudding and mashed potato are past, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford

DIGBY ANDERSON, *The Spectator's* food writer, is not the only person to have noticed the emphasis given in obituaries on Peter Cook to his love of spicy food. Patients, too, have been asking if a visit to the local curry house will reactivate a long-dormant, scarred ulcer and start a fatal bleed.

Peter Cook's obituaries also mention his love of alcohol, possibly a more important factor than curried mutton as alcohol can cause a fatal gastro-intestinal haemorrhage in other ways than by exacerbating a gastric or duodenal ulcer. If a liver becomes cirrhotic (scarred and shrunken) there is often consequent obstruction to the venous circulation in the oesophagus (gullet) which results in the formation of varicose veins. These

oesophageal varices have a nasty tendency to rupture, as happened to John Le Mesurier, the sergeant in *Dad's Army* and a self-confessed heavy drinker. Sometimes the subsequent bleed proves impossible to stop and in consequence the patient dies.

Nobody who enjoys Indian food will deny the power of a vindaloo to cause indigestion which may well, like too much brandy, exacerbate an inflamed or ulcerated stomach or duodenum. The good news is that emphasis is now put on curing the underlying cause of the

trouble and less on treating the symptoms by prescribing a long-term bland or milky diet.

Treatment will focus on reducing gastric acidity, and, where appropriate, eradicating *Helicobacter pylori*, the organism found in many cases of peptic ulceration. The days of proton pump inhibitors, H<sub>2</sub> blockers and antibiotic eradication are with us, while those of junkets, rice puddings and potatoes mashed with skimmed milk, are past.



The tendency is for patients with a special need, for instance a narrowed oesophagus which makes swallowing difficult, to ask their hostess if she would

forgive them if they only had soup and mushy vegetables. Likewise when somebody on a diet goes to a restaurant, special fare may be difficult to prepare and cause dismay in the kitchen.

An advisory service for those on medically-approved diets has been established in the Chelsea area of London. It plans gourmet menus, with a compatible wine, that fulfil the patient's prescribed diet but restores their culinary excitement and doesn't leave them socially isolated, obviously eating shepherd's pie while everybody else enjoys frites.

The dietician, after consultation with the patient's own doctor, will not only plan a varied daily menu to eat at home but will advise on dinner parties so that the patient's needs are met without other guests noticing that they are eating a carefully chosen diet. Jane Clarke, who runs the service, also liaises with restaurants and airways to ensure that dishes compatible with the diet are available and served with minimal fuss.

She says that her aim is to provide a diet which is both stimulating and medically sound. "Why always, for instance, give somebody who finds swallowing difficult soup when salmon mousse slips down just as easily."

● Jane Clarke, 35 Walpole Street, Chelsea, London SW3 0JF 0171-823 5323.

## How to avoid saying: 'I can't eat that'

## From a log cabin to a triumph across the world

Robert Rhodes James on the dramatic story of a man who made a pharmaceutical fortune

The extraordinary saga of Henry Solomon Wellcome continues nearly 60 years after his death in 1936. Another chapter unfolded yesterday. The little company that he and Silas Burroughs created in 1890 is now valued at nearly \$9 billion and, if Glaxo succeeds in its proposed takeover, will be part of the most formidable pharmaceutical company in the world. His is a story of genuine drama and ultimate triumph on a quite astonishing scale.

He was born in real poverty in his grandfather's log cabin in bleak northern Wisconsin in 1853. His parents struggled to make a living out of 14 acres of wretchedly poor soil until, in 1860, the family undertook the arduous and dangerous trek in covered wagons to the small town of Garden City, Minnesota, where Henry Wellcome's uncle was a respected doctor. His father became an Adventist itinerant minister; the Wellcomes were the poorest family in Garden City, and the boy Henry, who left school at 13, worked in his uncle's drugstore.

By then he had been through a searing experience — the bloody Sioux uprising of 1862. The boy Wellcome made lead bullets and helped his uncle and an English doctor called William Worrall Mayo in tending the wounded. It was Mayo who persuaded Wellcome to leave the backwater of Garden City and to move with him to Rochester, Minnesota, and who urged him to go to pharmaceutical college. He could only afford to do so by working long hours in drug shops, but after he had graduated from the Philadelphia School of Pharmacy his advance had begun. He became a determined and highly successful drugs salesman, and might possibly have remained

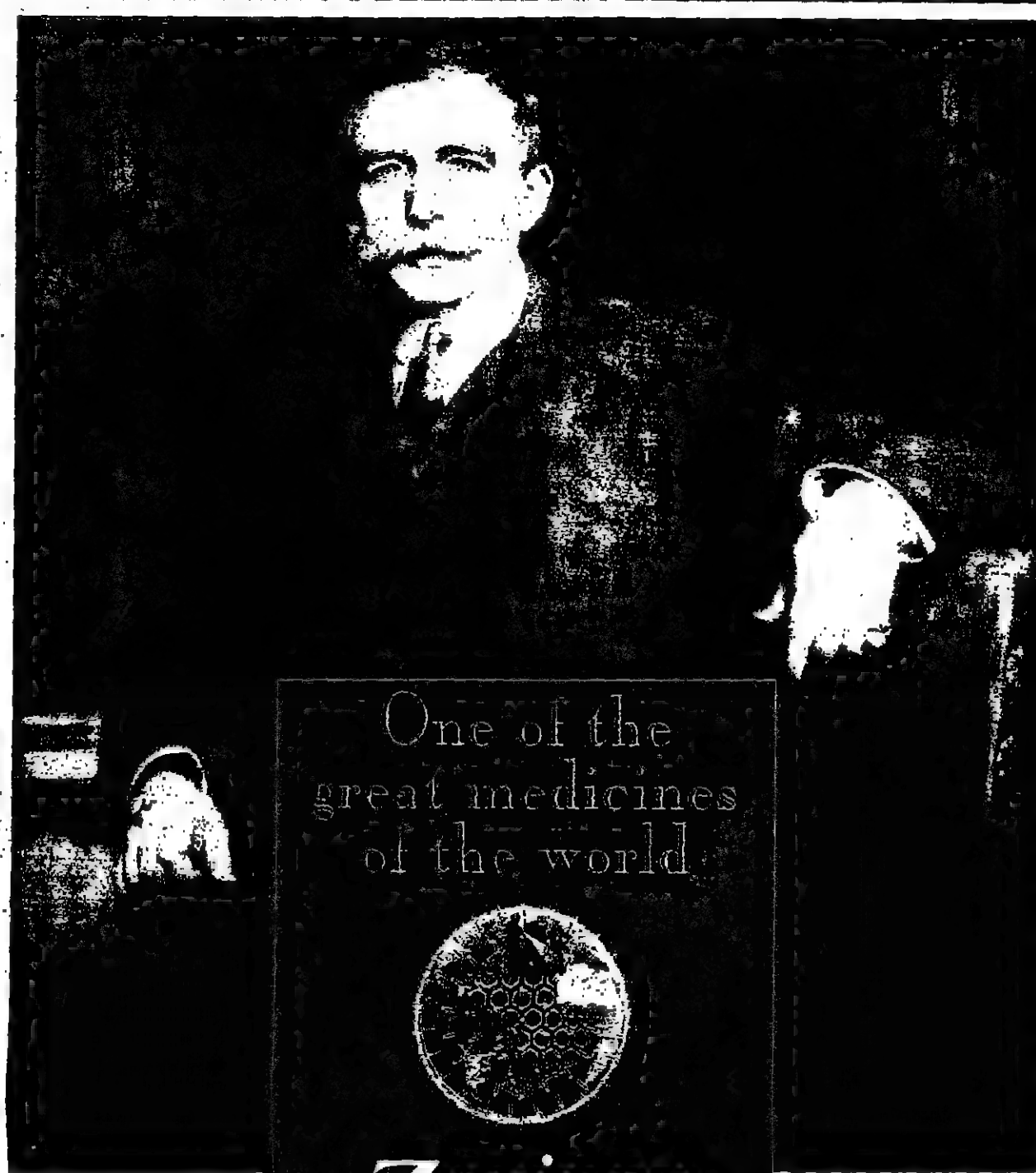


one of his then friend Silas Mainville Burroughs, who had founded a small company in London to sell American drugs, had not persuaded him to come to Britain in 1890 and become his partner. He arrived, aged 27, with little money but a fierce ambition.

The firm of Burroughs Wellcome and Company was tiny, but the two young Americans had a trump card — machines for making compressed tablets in considerable quantities and of good quality. Under Wellcome's leadership in England, while Burroughs toured the world for business and establishing outlets in the Empire, the growing firm went from distributing the drugs and preparations of American companies to manufacturing its own. Despite clashes of personality and a profound difference of approach, they prospered.

Burroughs died suddenly in 1895, and after a bitter fight with Burroughs' widow, Wellcome was in supreme control, and began to build and staff his own laboratories. He used his social and professional contacts in the medical profession to find and employ able researchers and scholars and give them not only the best facilities but the encouragement to undertake pure research.

One of these young men was a future Nobel prizewinner — Henry Dale — and most of the others became Fellows of the



One of the great medicines of the world

Henry Wellcome, aged 53, and a advertisement for one of the company's progressive drugs to combat Aids

duced drugs or discoveries that had a commercial application, this was to be regarded as a bonus, but was not their purpose. The principle that Wellcome initiated, that all profits were to be ploughed back into research, was followed by his successors.

He laid grandiose plans for the future after his death. His fortune was to be dedicated to medical research and medical history. Unhappily, he had taken such bad legal advice that his Trustees found themselves not dealing with great wealth — Wellcome left the then enormous sum of over £3 million — but with vast death

duties. Also, the company itself went through a bad period, so that the income from the shares was almost negligible. In the 20 years after Wellcome's death his Trustees disbursed only £1 million.

It was not until the company, in the United States as well as in Britain, recovered its strong position that the situation was transformed, to the point that last year the Trust invested over £200 million in medical research in Britain — almost as much as the Medical Research Council.

Of course, other companies

have contributed greatly to the medical and pharmaceutical revolutions of our century, but they have done so by following Wellcome's pioneering lead in investing money into pure research and financing the best intellects and the most promising fields.

On a bleak March morning last year my friend Dr Nicholas Muller, the head of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, drove me through the snow from Madison to the small village of Almond, Wisconsin, in search of the Wellcome farm. Dr Muller pointedly ridiculed the possibility of finding it, his confidence not increased by the fact that I was guiding him with the benefit of a road map of 1860. But — there it was, almost unchanged, on the same 14 acres, still being farmed. And, as I stood in that tiny stone house, I felt, at last, close to Henry Solomon Wellcome.

● Sir Robert Rhodes James's Henry Wellcome — A Biography was published in November 1994 by Hodder & Stoughton (£25).

## Can this be a scalpel I see inside me?

Instruments left inside patients may not be discovered for years

Despite the tightest controls, every year some former patients discover they have been carrying an unwanted souvenir of their hospital stay.

Swabs are the commonest items to disappear, but scalpels, scissors and other collectables also go, concealed behind a lobe of liver or coil of intestine as a patient is being sewn up after surgery.

Three-week-old Benjamin Jones's surprised mother, who discovered a hypodermic needle sticking from his back while she was changing his nappy, may be relieved that it did not go undetected longer. Some patients discover only after years or decades that they have been carrying around a bit of surgical hardware of which they have been entirely unaware.

The body is adept at dealing with foreign bodies, either expelling them or sealing them off in a capsule of tissue so that they cause no further problems. When doctors notice an item left behind after treatment, it is often a tricky clinical decision whether to do nothing or to risk further damage by trying to retrieve it.

In a case settled last year, Hazel McMillan, a nurse, won £17,000 damages after part of a needle from an intravenous drip snapped off and was left embedded in her forearm while she was undergoing a hysterectomy.

Doctors at North Middlesex Hospital in Edmonton, London, attempted to remove the needle under local anaesthetic, but were unable to locate it because it had travelled several inches along her vein. She was later returned to theatre and the piece was removed under general anaesthetic.

But the damage had been done. After two years, during which Ms McMillan suffered continuing pain in her wrist, it emerged that nerves in her forearm had been damaged by the first abortive attempt to retrieve the missing needle. Ms McMillan decided to sue New River Health Authority and the case was settled out of court.

To ensure that patients do not leave theatre with excess baggage, hospital surgical teams are required to follow strict protocols. All instruments and swabs must be counted before the operation

and again before the patient is sewn up.

Dr Susan O'Driscoll of the Medical Defence Union (MDU), the doctors' defence organisation, said: "Sometimes, the second count is done as the patient is being sewn up, but it is obviously easier to look for a missing item if the patient is still open."

"Occasionally, the count may be wrong or, if there is a life-threatening haemorrhage, the procedures may go by the board." Last year, the MDU was called in to examine theatre procedures at Doncas-



Benjamin Jones, who had a needle in his back, and parents

ter Royal Infirmary after a heart patient died during surgery to remove swabs that had been left inside him during an earlier operation.

The man underwent the first operation in June, but a month later he required urgent surgery to remove the swabs which were discovered when he developed an infection. He suffered a heart attack during the second operation and died on the operating table.

The ill effects of an abandoned swab may not be felt for years. Last September, surgeons removed a 2in square of gauze from 16-year-old Gavin Crookford's abdomen, where it had caused a stomach abscess. Gavin had endured 16 months of pain but had apparently been harbouring the gauze since undergoing surgery at Southampton General Hospital when he was ten.

JEREMY LAURANCE

## Potency Restored

Impotence is a health problem of huge proportions affecting millions of men whose sex lives range from disappointing to totally disastrous. Now, a new book written by Dr Richard Silurian MD — shows how any man can treat impotence at home and, in nearly every case, obtain relief from this distressing condition in just twenty minutes. A number of immediate measures are recommended — about 30% of all impotent men only need make a few easy adjustments to renew their virility. But by far the most important part of this programme is 'The Twenty Minute Method for Men', a simple home treatment using NO drugs, NO special equipment and NO other external assistance.

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## Weighing the cost of a smart heart

The latest pacemakers allow their recipients to lead more active lives — at a price. Roger Dobson reports

CHARLES Fletcher is 103, and last September was given a new electronic lease of life. He had been suffering from complete heart block, one of the commonest heart defects of the aged, which meant that his heart beat was slow and irregular. He is now looking forward to another decade, a belief based on a treasured letter from his cardiologist saying that his pacemaker has an expected life of 10 years. "If it keeps going so can I," he said.

A former studio designer, Mr Fletcher retired 35 years ago, in the year when the first pacemakers came into use. He

is an extreme example of the growing number of elderly people being given simple pacemakers. For him the device has improved quality of life — quite considerably by keeping his heart beating at the same pace all the time, whether he is resting or walking.

But a more sophisticated and more expensive device is also available and some cardiologists believe it should be used for all or most patients, whatever their age. They consider that the basic pacemaker is now out of date, although it is still being implanted in seven out of 10 patients, most of them elderly. There also appear to be wide differences in policy between centres around the UK.

Terry Sermon is 58 and has been fitted with a "smart" pacemaker. It costs £3,000 — £1,700 more than the simple variety. It can vary its pace according to what he is doing, responding to physical activity such as swimming or horse



At 103, Charles Fletcher has a new electronic lease of life

riding by making his heart beat faster.

So should the elderly be content to receive the cheaper, simple pacemakers, while younger patients get the more advanced equipment?

Douglas Skehan, consultant cardiologist at Leicester Glenfield Hospital, has set out the main issues in a recent editorial in the *British Heart Journal*. "Pacing the elderly has become a controversial subject," he says. "Many patients are OK with the basic pacing, but it is likely that many elderly people who are paced in this way are not as well treated as they could be."

Some cardiologists are frustrated by budget constraints and reluctantly apply an ageist policy to the selection of pacemaker.

David Cunningham, of the British Pacing and Electrophysiology Group, which represents the leading cardiologists involved in pacemaking, has studied information on 100,000 patients with pacemakers. Only a small proportion of elderly people are getting the smart pacemakers, he says.

He also found that in the private sector there has been a 55 per cent increase in smart pacemaker implants since

1990, compared to around 12 per cent in NHS hospitals. A smart pacemaker costs the NHS £333 a year for eight years for each patient, compared to £160 for a simple device. It is estimated that to provide all patients with smart devices would increase pacemaking costs by between 80 and 100 per cent.

Mr Sermon is one of the few people with personal experience of both types. He has been upgraded from a simple to a smart pacemaker. "The simple one was fine, but this lets me do so much more. I can now swim and go riding and hill walking. I play golf and my life has changed completely," he says.

A £1 million study coordinated by Dr Skehan will compare the performance of the two types of pacemaker and is expected to start shortly. "The Medical Research Council has been very supportive of the project and we are planning for 40 centres around the UK to take part," he said.

"We hope to show clearly whether there are benefits from smart pacing in elderly people so that we can move to a fully non-ageist policy in the 21st century."

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## After Rose, a prickly dilemma

Lawrence Freedman on a belated UN response in Bosnia

Last Friday, the Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, confirmed that the British contingent in Bosnia is about to be reinforced with Chinook, Lynx and Gazelle helicopters. This can be seen as backing for Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith as he takes over from Sir Michael Rose as commander of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) in Bosnia. It was described as support for the ceasefire brokered by Jimmy Carter last month, enabling the speedy movement of troops to monitor the confrontation lines. It may turn out to be a necessary preparation for withdrawal.

Experience suggests that when the parties in Bosnia accept ceasefires (of which there have been more than 30 already), they are looking for a breathing space before the next round of fighting, rather than an opportunity for a peace settlement. The current ceasefire covers the harsher winter months, when military activity would have slowed anyway. If the lull is being used by the belligerents to prepare for a more hectic spring, then it also makes sense for the UN to do so.

But the ceasefire may not last that long. It has never

The UN force is immobilised by the need to serve three different goals

really taken hold around Bihac, the enclave which saw major setbacks for both the Bosnian Muslims and the UN late last year. Bihac has become unusually sensitive, because at this point the new conflict within Bosnia and the old conflict with Croatia become intertwined. Unless there is a political breakthrough, a return to violence will be marked by new calls for an end to the arms embargo and withdrawal of the UN force.

Unprofor is immobilised by being required to serve three incompatible goals. The first, which is the only one for which the 23,000 blue-helmeted troops are all equipped, is the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The second is to protect the "safe areas" occupied largely by the Muslim population and besieged by Serb forces. The third aim is to look after itself.

Inevitably, the third aim tends to dominate the others, especially as UN forces on the ground are far weaker than those of the Serbs. Not only is Unprofor useless for putting pressure on the Serbs, but it is also vulnerable to retaliation should the Serbs be angered by alternative forms of pressure, such as air strikes. For the same reason, it is unable to deliver humanitarian assistance in many parts of Bosnia without Serb consent.

The hopelessness of this position was brutally exposed last year, as the vulnerability of Unprofor was demonstrated through petty humiliations, hostage-taking and occasionally deadly sniper fire. The Serbs successfully exploited the UN's embarrassment so as to encourage the Contact Group of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States to rewrite the peace plan rejected last July.

The Contact Group appears prepared to contemplate encouraging the surrender of the Muslim enclaves in the East in

return for expanding the areas held by the Government around Sarajevo. This appeals the Bosnian Government, because of the massive "ethnic cleansing" entailed, while leaving the Serbs demanding more. And Croatia has also been unsettled for such a deal would create a precedent which the Serbs of Krajina, who seized 30 per cent of Croatia in 1991, would dearly love to follow. This prospect has increased the pressure on President Tudjman in Zagreb to ensure that Krajina remains part of Croatia.

So Tudjman has told the UN that he does not intend to renew the mandate of the Unprofor force in Croatia when it expires on March 31. It may be that this is no more than a ploy, and that he is expecting political concessions on the status of Krajina in return for renewing the mandate. But he has left himself only slight room for manoeuvre, and as the deadline approaches a number of UN contributors may start to withdraw their troops. Already, the Krajina and Bosnian Serbs have made common cause around Bihac, and a more generalised war will make it extremely hard for President Milosevic of Serbia to exercise continuing restraint.

The removal of the UN from Croatia thus adds to the pressure on the Bosnian force. Withdrawal from Bosnia is still being studied by the UN and Nato. It is now recognised to be an extremely hazardous operation. Nato planners have nightmares about their columns being blocked by crowds of protesting Muslim women and children, while being sniped at by Serbs. The problem of withdrawal eases if equipment, such as the 8,000 Unprofor vehicles, is left behind. However, the Serbs have made clear that if there is any risk that this equipment could fall into Bosnian Army hands, they will make life as difficult as possible for the evacuating forces.

Every Unprofor initiative has been thwarted by a terrible manpower shortage. Now it may be that the only mission for which there will be enough forces will be the evacuation — when even the United States is unwilling up to now in its refusal to provide troops, claims to be prepared to employ some 25,000 marines. At no time will Western firepower have been more in evidence in Bosnia than at the moment of retreat.

Yet the advantages of considerable reinforcements would be much greater. They might allow the UN to regain some sort of influence on the ground, and could certainly be accompanied by a stronger stance in defence of the "safe areas". Perhaps as importantly, they would improve the prospects for an orderly evacuation should this become inevitable, by reducing the vulnerability of individual units. The old advice to those who find themselves in holes to stop digging is normally prudent. But from some holes the only escape requires more digging.

The tabloid investigations of my childhood friends are unjustified, writes Jack Straw

## Do our schooldays deserve privacy?

forms, the more insidious for that. I recalled that in my dormitory at school seven of us, over a period of two years, picked on an eighth, and made him miserable. In the end, he stopped boarding and became a dayboy. I had thought about this recently, and regretted it.

This kind of experience is hardly unusual, in day or boarding schools, in the 1950s or the 1990s. What's more, I must have made exactly the same observation on four or five occasions in the years from 1987 to 1992 when I was Labour's education spokesman, and no journalist had ever considered it worthy of report.

This time it was different. The two journalists present stopped me as I left, to ask for more particulars. I told them that I had heard from the person concerned some years ago, and he had not expressed any hard feelings. But I resolutely refused to name the man, or give any other details. By the time I got back to the

office, the story had taken on a life of its own. "Ashamed Jack Straw admits he was a bully" wrote the *London Evening Standard*. The *Daily Mirror* asked me to write a piece about this experience — an invitation I accepted, since if I did not tell the story in my own words, it would be embroidered in others'.

Up to a point, all this could be described as fair game for someone in the public eye. The quotations were accurate, and, as ever, the headlines were not the responsibility of those who put the story together. What is bizarre, however, and very worrying, is what subsequently happened to private citizens who were at school with me, either as teachers or fellow pupils. The school itself was bombarded with calls seeking confirmation of what I said. It was politely explained that this was 37 years ago, and no one could help.

Then began the "research" in the Brentwood public library. From the

termy "house notes" and other records, a long list of likely suspects was put together, and all those who could be found in the phone book or on databases were contacted. What was I like at school, did all this happen, had I been a really big bully, or just made the whole thing up?

But it was worse than that. One man called me to say that his mother had been phoned by someone claiming to be me, another that his elderly great aunt had been called, while a third said that his mother, who was very poorly, had been contacted, and that the message which she had then left for her son was in such terms that he thought she had taken a turn for the worse.

For me, this has been no more than irritating; but for many of my former schoolfriends the incident has been an upsetting and gratuitous intrusion. But there has been illumination, too, about the extraordinary priorities of sections of the British press.

It was not as if there was some great public scandal to uncover.

But there is a more serious consequence, which is the limiting of sensible public debate. Most people illustrate debates about the issues of the day by reference to their own experience. So should politicians. But how can we now, when such references lead to the kind of gratuitous intrusion that my school, my former fellow pupils, elderly retired masters, and even mothers and great aunts have had to endure? The result is that we shall have to close up, use detached language, theorise rather than speak from experience. And the result of that, if we give in to the pressure, will be that our politicians will appear yet more divorced from the real world of those in whose name we work.

A law of privacy would be hugely complicated and full of pitfalls. It would have to be offset by a defence of public interest, and it could, unless very carefully drafted and sensitively enforced, be used to cover up genuine public scandals (as appears to be the case in France). But I have scratched my head wondering what public interest was served by those four journalists in Brentwood public library, and whether they could not have been more fruitfully employed. I have yet to find an answer.

The author is Shadow Home Secretary.

## The way we thief now

A generation ago, private property was respected, and no one would have contemplated stealing from the poor

When I moved into the W1 area of London, very many years ago, my regular shopping street, just round the corner, was (it still is) Marylebone High Street, with its appendix, Thayer Street. In those days, the thoroughfare was not only a great shopping experience, but one of the most elegant and beautiful streets in central London. This was not simply a matter of "posh" — shops which were so expensive that only the rich could buy from them — because there were very many places in the street for people with modest means but who found that the goods they bought were of the finest quality, from the wonderful grocer to the wonderful fishmonger. (Strictly speaking, the latter was not on the High Street, but he was only two paces round the corner, and incidentally he is still there and still selling the finest fish in London.) The friendly grocer, of course, has long vanished: there are no such things anywhere now unless you want to go to Fortnum's — the supermarkets have done for the grocers, alas.

Eheu fugaces. Over the years, the street has deteriorated: the great map-seller rolled up his charts, the great butcher with his unforgettable name — "Wainwright and Daughter" — packed his carving knife, the great men's outfitters is still there, but half the size it used to be. Perhaps the finest place in the street was the glorious emporium (I can't call it a shop) which was run by a lady who surrounded herself with beautiful things made of silver and wood and pottery and everything that can be made by man's (and woman's) hand, and who sold that beauty for amazingly small sums. I remember — how could I have forgotten? — the day she told me that she would have to give up the shop, because the lease had run out and a new one would cost five times the old one. I still bathe in Schadenfreude every time I pass the site. It has been derelict for some five years. I am happy to say.

From bad to worse, the High Street crumbled further. At one point, I counted 15 derelict shop premises, and some of the weirdest hopefuls took shops on the street. I remember one that sold nothing but nuts — nuts of every kind but only nuts; I think it lasted about three weeks. And then the street got even worse: some of the shopkeepers wouldn't have been allowed in the street in its glory days, and few there were to take a shop in a dying street. (One turned back the tide: Villandry — I suppose you could call him a grocer — is expensive, but sells the very finest stuffs, and nothing else.)

But lately, I have been sniffing a different breeze. One of the derelict shops has been taken for a display of what the High Street and its surroundings might become. And what



Bernard Levin

might they become? The plan in the window is detailed; it looks like Arcadia, and if it ever came to fruition, it would be what the High Street was when I first moved in. (I had had a clue without realising it: the High Street Christmas decorations, slung across the street, were not only beautiful but singularly tasteful; unmatched by the vulgar, shoddy stuff that Regent Street provided, our High Street led the town.)

I peered more closely at that plan, and I regret to say that I murmured "I'll believe it when I see it." Yet even the pessimist in me cannot deny that one or two shops that might be harbingers of spring have been newly seen. Could it be that our High Street is going to have a new life? Ah, well, I'll believe it when I see it. (That may be when the harmless wins leave the High Street.)

But I have to tell you now that the above is not the matter in hand — my hand, anyway. And I regret to have to say that the real matter in hand shines no credit upon our street; indeed, for any ordinary person, it would be difficult to beat for baseness. Let me explain.

When those sadly derelict shops — as I said, sometimes they numbered by more than a dozen — were crumbling away, some sensible and valuable suggestions as to their use were made: these were, principally, that the empty shops should be leased (I presume at a peppercorn rent) to such noble causes as Oxfam, Sue Ryder, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and many more. These shops were taken in a wide variety of useful items from donors, which are sold for their good — their very good — causes. There have been many such over the last few years in our High Street; at present we have Oxfam and the Cancer Research Fund. Sometimes, however, the shops are closed, and when that is so, donors have been in the sensible habit of

leaving their gifts on the doorstep, for the good and generous souls to take in, when they open for business.

You get the picture? No, you don't. You think you do, but you don't. And when I tell you what the picture is, you won't even believe it. For not long ago, I was walking through the High Street and paused at the Oxfam shop; it was evening, and the Oxfam staff had long gone home. But some other people had not. I looked at the door of the Oxfam shop, and I saw, pasted on the inside of the glass door with the text outwards, a printed police leaflet, clearly for wide use, which ran: "Police Warning. Donations are being stolen from the doorways of this shop. Please take care of your property."

I strolled on, in what I think is correctly called a brown study, but I did stroll on. It was only a few paces further when I saw, again neatly printed and pasted on the inside of the glass — it was the Cancer Research Fund shop — this statement: "Due to the increased numbers of forged banknotes in this area, we are checking all notes presented in this shop. We apologise to all our

customers for any inconvenience."

I haven't finished. There was another police leaflet being distributed just before Christmas. This is how it ran: "Many of you will be flocking to the shopping areas of Marylebone to spend your hard earned money on 'prezies'. However, you will not be the only ones shopping in the West-End. Extra shifts of thieves will be drafted in to relieve you of a few items. They will come because some of you will be careless with your cheque books, leave your handbags unattended, leave your shopping on the back seat of the car and show off how much money you have in your wallet. Most of us will enjoy our Christmas — a few of us won't. Please take care and be aware."

Let us go back first to the doorway of the Oxfam and Cancer Research Fund. No one can be ignorant of what those organisations do and why they do it. Yet people will steal the donations (themselves hardly of much worth) from the thresholds of those shops; and other people will present forged notes whereof they will pay for what they are in reality stealing. Then let us go back to the Christmas warning which tells us that "Extra shifts of thieves will be drafted in to relieve you of a few items."

Auberon Waugh has said — it is practically a mantra — that only a few years ago he would leave his house in the country unattended and unlocked, without a thought or a care, and found it left as it was. He has just been burgled, in that very house, for the third time. And you could fill the Albert Hall from floor to ceiling with people telling the very same story, as they jangle their padlocks and compare floodlights.

So what does it mean? What is the meaning of the thefts and swindles played upon generous people who do nothing but help those who need help? And what is the meaning of the country-house burglaries which are rife now, but which — though there were thieves aplenty — hardly existed a very few decades ago?

You will be greatly dismayed, but probably not astonished, when I say I don't know. And I don't think anyone knows either. But I think I know that the Oxfam and Cancer Research thefts could not have happened, before, say, 1960, and the country-house burglaries did not start to happen before roughly the same time. If I am right, what has changed — and changed substantially in this time? I don't know the answer to that question, either. Very sorry.

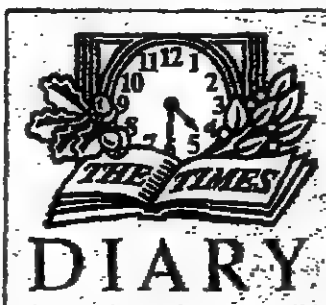
I have had so enormous a number of letters from and about New Zealand that it is impossible for me to answer them individually, as I would wish. I ask your pardon, and hope that this collective note will suffice.

## Up in arms

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY is seeking legal advice about withdrawing permission to use its coat of arms from the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, because of the club's refusal to admit women as full members. The Cambridge arms depicts a cross between four lions passant. It is used extensively on crockery, headed paper and decorative motifs throughout the club of arms, in combination with Oxford's coat of arms.

A Cambridge insider tells me that pressure for reform from dons and graduates is so great that the university authorities feel they must take a stand. And they believe they can best respond by trying to bar the club from using the university device. As the club rules stand, female graduates can join as associate members, but they are not allowed to walk on the marble staircase, use the library or the members' bar. *Varsity*, the Cambridge University newspaper, reports this week that student unions have condemned the club in the strongest terms for its continued refusal to accept women.

Gordon Buchanan, the club secretary, was unavailable for comment yesterday. The legal challenge is far from cut and dried, and there is no indication yet that Oxford would follow Cambridge in any move to remove the university emblems. Developments will, however, be followed closely by Oxford dons, many of whom disagree with the club's chauvinism.



Young left-wing politicians called Ed should apply to the Shadow Chancellor's office. Gordon Brown seems to have a penchant for the name. Ed Milliband, brother of Tony Blair's policy adviser, David, is the latest appointee to his private office. He joins Ed "gobbledegook" Balls, a researcher, and follows Ed Richards, who recently left his job as assistant.

### Gizmo man

AS PIERCE BROSNAN and his bevy of co-stars posed for the cameras on the set of the new Bond film, *Goldeneye*, on Sunday, I sloped off behind the scenes and stumbled into Q's workshop. Here was Mick Finlayson, the

film's senior special effects technician, charged with teaching Desmond Llewellyn, who plays Q, how to use his wickets. Not as easy as it sounds, he explained, tinkering with an inkpen which detonates bombs in the new movie. "Desmond has enormous hands. He has difficulty with fiddly things."

### Palace, please

NIGEL HAWTHORNE is looking for a home fit for a king. Widely tipped for an Oscar for his performance as George III in *The Madness of King George*, he has put his 16th-century Grade II listed manor on the market so he can move into something with a bit more space.



Hawthorne as George

With the film already a hit in America and due to open over here soon, he is asking £385,000 for Radwell Grange near Baldock in Hertfordshire and is hunting for an even grander property in the area.

### Instrumental

TEENAGE violinist Vanessa-Mae Nicholson, who lost her £200,000 fiddle last week to burglars, is being showered with offers of a replacement. London's leading violin dealer, J & A Beare, slipped her a trial *Guadagnini* (similar to the 1761 instrument she lost) only to have it returned as unsuitable. Now Alan Todd, a technician at Cambridge University's engineering department, is offering to step into the breach.

"I've got a violin made in 1762 — only a year out — which I was given as part payment of a debt," he says. "It's been valued at £20,000, but I can't play it so I'm prepared to offer it to her for a good sum."

And should Vanessa-Mae reject this offer, Beare's are already searching out alternatives. "We've



Vanessa-Mae Nicholson at play: my other violin's a...

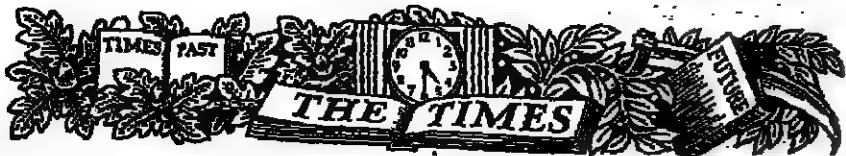
lined up four or five more fiddles which might suit her. She's coming in to try them out on Thursday."

### Globe trotter

THE LYRICIST Sir Tim Rice doesn't allow much to interfere with his cricket. His appearance at the Golden Globe awards in the shadow of Hugh Grant was touch-and-go — because the Test match in Adelaide looms on Thursday. He

managed to squeeze in a little business in New York, then popped over on Sunday to LA to pick up the prize he shared with Elton John for the best song in a movie (for his work in *The Lion King*). And yesterday he shot off to Australia. "It's important to get your priorities right," he explains. "I wanted to get to Adelaide in time to give the England team some advice."





## DAYS OF GROWTH

The Bank of England has proved its critics wrong

The British economy is now the strongest in Europe and arguably the healthiest in the entire industrialised world. This observation, which would have been dismissed as preposterous a year ago, now represents the simplest truth. The *annus mirabilis* for the British economy was given official confirmation yesterday with the publication of the first official estimates of Gross Domestic Product in 1994. These statistics showed the economy growing by 4 per cent between the fourth quarters of 1993 and 1994, Britain's strongest performance since 1988.

Although such percentages may not, on their own, create much popular excitement, the tangible social benefit of strong economic growth was demonstrated last week in the December employment figures. These showed unemployment falling by 54,000 in December alone and by nearly half a million since the worst point of the recession. They also showed that the reduction in unemployment was not just some statistical illusion or bureaucratic sleight of hand: vacancies reported to employment offices are rising rapidly and 127,000 new full-time jobs have been created in the last quarter. If this rate of progress could be maintained, unemployment could be reduced within a year or so to levels last seen in the prosperous late-1980s.

Yet the City, far from welcoming the strong economic figures, has redoubled its calls for higher interest rates. A growth rate of 4 per cent is clearly "unsustainable", since the long-term growth rate of the British economy has always been below 2.5 per cent. Unsustainable growth, say the gloomy pundits, is bound to produce inflation. It must be urgently choked off.

This is needlessly alarmist. Any recovery from recession must of necessity be a period of "unsustainable" growth. For if recovery is to reduce unemployment at all, it must create new jobs more quickly than the rate of

population growth: such growth is, by definition, unsustainable. The object of economic policy should be to keep growth at an unsustainable pace for long enough to reach acceptable levels of unemployment. Only then should the economy decelerate to its long-term trend growth rate, of between 2 and 2.5 per cent.

The Bank and the Treasury cannot, of course, tune the economy with absolute precision. But they can do better if they aim for broadly sensible objectives, such as rapid economic growth when unemployment is high. This is, in fact, exactly what the authorities have done in the past two years, with excellent results. In the two years since October 1992, when John Major declared that the Government's objective was not just to control inflation, but also to promote recovery, the judgments made by the Bank and the Treasury have proved impressive — and better than those made by most outside commentators, ourselves included. Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, has proved right in his view that the economy would continue to grow strongly, despite rising taxes, and right in his decision to start cautiously raising interest rates last autumn.

But the question now is whether the Bank should keep tightening policy until it completely crushes the recovery and reduces growth to a "sustainable" rate of below 2.5 per cent. Given the nervousness in the world economy, the slackening of consumer demand and the weakness of investment within Britain, any further tightening of monetary policy might well be premature. After his successful performance in the last year or so, Mr George will deserve the benefit of the doubt if he decides on another small rise in interest rates. But before he goes further than that, he should wait for more evidence of just how robust the recovery remains, both at home and abroad.

## THE CLEGG AFFAIR

A legal reform would prevent future furores

The case of Private Lee Clegg, the paratrooper convicted of murder in 1993, has aroused passions. A group of senior veterans has promised to press his case until he is exonerated and released; others threaten to boycott the VE-Day celebrations if justice is not done. As colonel-in-chief of Private Clegg's regiment, the Prince of Wales is said to be taking an interest. MPs called yesterday for an emergency debate. Seldom in legal history is there such a strong lobby for the release of an individual.

The strength of feeling aroused by the Lords' rejection of Private Clegg's appeal last week is easy to comprehend. His crime was almost certainly the product of adrenaline rather than malicious intent. In September 1990, he was part of a patrol in Northern Ireland which fired on a speeding car in Belfast. Three of the bullets which Private Clegg fired were judged to be legitimate, shot in self-defence or the defence of a fellow soldier. The courts ruled, however, that the fourth was fired after the car had gone 50 feet past the roadblock. This, it seems, was the bullet that killed 18-year-old Karen Reilly.

To some of his supporters Private Clegg is a victim of the law's failure to distinguish between military and civilian actions. In such a case, a soldier is judged to be no more than a "citizen armed in a certain manner". To many this does not square with the reality of patrol on the Belfast streets five years ago. Indeed, it would not be difficult to create a new offence applying to servicemen who kill unlawfully in the course of their duties. Yet the sternest opponent of such a change has long been the Army, which probably fears that a more general offence of unlawful military killing would encourage a greater number of prosecutions. Its senior officers also remain nervous of making soldiers even

partially immune from civil jurisdiction. This is an enlightened position to adopt. From time to time, however, it produces hard cases such as Private Clegg's. On the evidence before the court, the case for conviction was clear. Yesterday the Clegg campaign claimed that new forensic evidence will show that he did not fire the lethal bullet. Sir Patrick Mayhew must therefore decide whether to review the case on the strength of their submission. The Northern Ireland Secretary now finds himself facing a quasi-judicial decision which will have serious political consequences.

Whatever he decides, the Government should not abdicate its responsibility to answer public fears about Private Clegg. First, it must be made clear that he is not, as he alleges, the victim of a conspiracy to appease nationalist feeling in the Province. The direction to prosecute was made in July 1991, long before the Downing Street declaration and the IRA ceasefire. Equally, it is absurd to suggest that the law lords have a vested interest in the politics of Ulster. Their decision was a sound reflection of the law. Sir Patrick should make clear that he is no more willing to treat Private Clegg as a hostage to the peace process than he is ready to release terrorist prisoners prematurely. In the eyes of the law, the paratrooper and the paramilitaries are all judged civilians.

Secondly, the Government should acknowledge the legal complexities which this case has revealed. A sensible reform would be to make it possible for courts to define excessive self-defence as manslaughter rather than murder. This would meet the Army's objection about the legal status of soldiers. It would also save the criminal justice system from future embarrassments which it can ill afford.

## CALF TROUBLE

Mr Waldegrave has turned veal to his advantage

For a politician often criticised as being insensitive and a shade too clever for comfort, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, has displayed admirable political dexterity in his handling of the latest debate on animal rights and wrongs. Confronted with revelations that calves from his own farm are exported to the Continent, where the crate-rearing and force-feeding on a liquid diet banned in Britain since 1990 are still widespread, Mr Waldegrave quickly divined the uses of adversity. He has argued that a review of the use of veal crates be brought forward from autumn 1997 to this year. He has also issued a strong plea for the banning of the method in all EU countries.

British sympathy for animals is increasingly becoming the basis for legislation. New rules which came into force yesterday in the UK make it a criminal offence for those transporting animals to divert from an approved journey plan, making the existing legislation on this point more readily enforceable. The strong pressure in Europe brought by the government to bear over veal-production was prompted to a great extent by the Shoreham protests.

The question of how humans treat animals is exerting a greater pull on our sensibilities, particularly among the middle-classes and the young. Some concerned citizens are acting in the humanist spirit of compassion. Other more radical activists claim that animals have "rights" akin to human ones. The alliance between them —

occasionally reinforced by the violent and the bored — is likely to produce more Shorehams and Brightlingseas in the future.

Mr Waldegrave will never satisfy every protester. The RSPCA will continue to campaign for a unilateral ban on export of veal calves from Britain; the Minister is right to resist the superficial appeal of such a move, even though it would find much favour. To do otherwise would cancel out leverage with other countries when they seek to exempt themselves from agreed rules of co-operation.

The calves' plight points to one of the central dilemmas within the EU. On the one hand, the organisation is supposed to level agricultural structures in the member countries to encourage fair practice. On the other, it is intended to stimulate trade, which thrives on competitive advantage. Such an advantage exists in countries with a higher tolerance of cruelty to animals.

With veal production, there does, happily, seem to be a way out. An EU study has concluded that banning of the rearing of calves in crates would have no impact on the economies affected and the meat, albeit of a different quality, can still be produced without resort to such methods. But this is an exception rather than a rule in meat production, especially in the luxury market. Bitter battles over what end up when and how on the discerning plates of Europe lie ahead. Even nimble Mr Waldegrave may not find these so easy to divert.

## Demands to free jailed paratrooper

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Is there not a grave danger that Paratrooper Clegg (report, January 23) letter, January 23) will become a *de facto* political prisoner, on the grounds that any official moves to expedite his release from prison could be regarded as provocative by the Sinn Féin-IRA grouping in the peace talks?

Any such interference with the natural justice that this case so urgently demands must be utterly resisted by the British Government which has it in its power to order Paratrooper Clegg's immediate release.

As a journalist periodically working in Northern Ireland between 1969 and 1986, I repeatedly saw the almost superhuman restraint and forbearance shown by young soldiers like him on roadblock duty in the Province.

Yours sincerely,  
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,  
22 Roan Court,  
Macclesfield, Cheshire,  
January 21.

From Mr E. V. Byers, MC

Sir, The reason given for obtaining and maintaining the conviction of this unfortunate man on a charge of murder appears to be based on the fact that he used unreasonable force by firing on the escaping car after it had passed him and he was therefore no longer in any danger.

This can only have been true because the car happened to be carrying unarmed joyriders. It is a spurious reason because the car was all too likely to be carrying armed terrorists who would have excellent motives for attempting to crash through a roadblock manned by lethally equipped soldiers: no one but a foolhardy idiot would otherwise try it.

In such a case a probable result would have been that Private Clegg and his comrades would have had to sustain a burst of automatic fire when the vehicle was anything up to 50 yards past the checkpoint. Would he then have been charged with dereliction of duty for ceasing fire as the car went by?

Soldiers in tense situations seldom have time to think they usually only have time to react. Private Clegg should not have been charged with anything at all: it would have been unreasonable even to castigate him for an error of judgment.

It is disgraceful and disgusting that this unfortunate soldier should have been used as political cannon fodder in such a heartless manner.

Yours faithfully,  
E. V. BYERS,  
Magnolia, Main Street,  
Kinsoulton, Nottingham,  
January 22.

## Defending British Gas

From Mr Grahame Dixon

Sir, For 38 years, up to the end of 1993, I was an employee of British Gas. I felt that I contributed not only to my own well-being but to that of the United Kingdom generally, and I think that view was shared by the majority of employees. There is no doubt, however, that the strains caused by privatisation have had a serious effect on morale.

The changes have resulted in massive job cuts, including my own. Yet I have nothing but praise for British Gas. It now generates profit in all corners of the world: the proportion from UK operations is reducing year on year. To have achieved this change with all the pressures of Government, Ofgas and the Monopolies Commission is incredible.

The man behind this achievement is Cedric Brown, the chief executive (interview, Business, January 13). Here is no money-grabber but an achiever. As a shareholder I hope he remains in office for some considerable time.

As for the showroom situation, it is sad for those employees involved to receive such letters as the one last December announcing cuts in jobs and pay. It can only, however, reflect reality. If nothing is done British Gas will have to sell the operation or close it down. Where will the jobs be then?

But do not blame British Gas for this: it is an inevitable outcome of privatisation.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM DIXON,  
104 Woodfield Avenue,  
Staincliffe, Batley, West Yorkshire.

## Listed buildings

From Mr Bernard Kaukas, ARIBA

Sir, According to the Listed Buildings Act 1990 (letters, January 3, 6, 11, 20): "No person shall execute or cause to be executed any works of demolition of a listed building or its alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, unless the works are authorised" (my italics).

The purport of those last five words is simply to ensure that the owner of the building is obliged to ask for and receive consent for any work he wishes to carry out. He is not, unless he wishes to incur prosecution, the arbiter as to whether or not the work "affects its character". He will discover that a listed building is not his castle; it is merely his liability.

A word of warning to the innocent owner of a listed building who is told

## A foreign threat to our free speech?

From Mr D. H. Walton

Sir, This evening the 9pm BBC news carried an item about slave labour in Burma. If the new Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill discussed by Antony Whitaker ("Stand up for free speech", and leading article, "Law from abroad", January 19) becomes law it will mean that in future such reports can be suppressed by the government of a foreign country, who will merely need to pass a law making it an offence to report the misdeeds of the government and then watch the British courts become an instrument of oppression for every nasty little dictator's regime.

Yours truly,  
DAVID H. WALTON,  
10 St Outhals Close, Crowland,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
January 19.

From Lord Brightman

Sir, Antony Whitaker argues that an aspect of the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill threatens our legal sovereignty, while your leading article states that "the Lord Chancellor is mistaken if he thinks this an uncontroversial measure to be hurried through Parliament on the nod".

A Special Public Bill Committee of the House of Lords, of which I am chairman, is currently taking evidence on the Bill, which has been circulated to a number of witnesses and their comments invited. Some 35 responses have been received, from a wide range of interests, and the committee has arranged six sessions of oral evidence.

## Church and lottery

From the Reverend Peter Kinley

Sir, If, as you say in your leader ("It must be the lottery", January 14), the Church of England condemns the National Lottery, but also intends to apply for a share of the lottery funds, then, it seems to me, you are correct in pointing out its hypocrisy.

However, your appeal to Scripture to justify the lottery is unsound, for the references cited have nothing to do with gambling in the usual sense of the word. Furthermore, to dismiss the subject of the lottery, as you do, as "morally trivial" betrays a serious lack of understanding of the issues involved.

The question is not whether there are more important moral issues, but whether gambling itself is a moral practice. Something which depends for its success on avarice can hardly be regarded as morally acceptable. If you doubt the incentive of greed, then you must explain the statement of Camelot that when the prize is rolled over, ticket sales increase significantly.

There is clear evidence from the US that lottery participation there has led to other forms of gambling. It is a cause of great regret and shame that our Government has seen fit to promote something which is morally unjustifiable and potentially destructive of human commitment.

## Opera House plans

From Mrs E. G. Isles

Sir, I join with Mr Jeremy Isaacs (letter, January 11) in wishing to see the Royal Opera House presenting opera and ballet to the highest standards.

I should like to support his intention to revitalise listed buildings whilst repairing and sustaining the infrastructure of a valuable public service.

However, I cannot accept that, in order to do so, he intends to demolish the only remaining 17th-century coffee house in London (The Coffee House, in Russell Street) and then fit it to the Floral Hall (Grade II\* — not Grade I as Mr Isaacs claims) which was originally built as a promenade area

This is a treatment which Bills do not normally receive and is in place of the usual Lords committee stage.

This committee has power to amend the Bill, but must then pass its remaining stages in both Houses. It is composed of both lay peers and specialist lawyers and is drawn from all parties and from independent peers. The Government does not have a majority on the committee and, while we have not yet come to any conclusions, you can be sure that nothing will pass us "on the nod".

The House has established this procedure specifically to ensure that law reform Bills receive the kind of scrutiny for which your leader calls. Mr Whitaker is most welcome to submit written evidence to the committee no later than Friday, January 27.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIGHTMAN,  
House of Lords,  
January 19.

From Mr R. G. Maling

Sir, May I take issue with a phrase in Mr Whitaker's otherwise well argued article, "virtually no restriction on Lord Mackay's 'ability' to legislate".

Mr Whitaker is referring to Lord Mackay's "powers". If the noble Lord had more ability it is reasonable to assume that his powers would be exercised with greater awareness of the forthcoming problems highlighted in the article.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. MALING,  
Windfall, Butlers Cross,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

justifiable and potentially destructive of human commitment.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER KINLEY,  
The Manse, Langley Upper Green,  
Saffron Walden, Essex,  
January 16.

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Your leading article is unnecessarily derogatory about the views of the House of Bishops.

At present, there is massive stimulation for demand for gambling and the promotion of the view that, rather than being a form of entertainment, it is a likely way of becoming rich. In this setting, although the controlling legislation prohibits children from purchasing lottery tickets, much of the publicity appears to be directed towards them. Thus, children have been involved in the television commercials for the Lottery, and many children take part in the live audience at the time of the draw, which, in any case, occurs before the 9pm watershed.

Clearly, these are matters of great concern which need urgent attention.

Yours faithfully,  
E. MORAN, Chairman,  
The National Council on Gambling,  
8 All Saints Street, NI.

for patrons of the Royal Opera House.

Demolition seems a strange way to save our heritage from disrepair and dereliction. Mr Isaacs's proposals have drawn opprobrium from the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Civic Trust ("the results are disappointing and run the risk of ultimately being seen, at best, as mediocre": Martin Bradshaw), the Georgian Group, the Covent Garden Community Association, and most of the members of the public who have viewed his plans.

Perhaps the Royal Opera House's case for funding from the National Lottery is not altogether convincing.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH ISLES,  
Flat 1, 41 Short's Gardens, WC2.

## Gulf War tests

From Wing Commander Bill Coker

Sir, Your report (January 17) on the alleged Gulf War syndrome gives a mistaken impression of the state of our investigations and might suggest that I have a dismissive attitude to unfortunate sufferers of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). I do not.

The report from *Soldier* magazine which you cite was researched some months ago and presented a snapshot of the position last autumn. We have since moved on: 250 cases have been referred, of which 77 have been seen and a diagnosis has been reached.

that he has carried out work without permission is also necessary. The local planning authority may invite him to regularise the situation or to "attempt" to regularise the situation by submitting a retrospective planning application; but such apparently reassuring phrases still leave the authority free to refuse consent and to issue an enforcement notice requiring the alleged faults to be remedied within a certain period, on pain of financial penalties.

It is generally prudent, therefore, in cases where the owner considers that any apparent breach of control regulations may not be upheld by the inspector in an appeal, not to submit a retrospective application but to wait to see whether an enforcement notice is served which can be appealed against.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
13 Lynwood Road, Ealing, W5.

The data so far suggest there is no single major illness being complained of by Gulf veterans, and certainly no evidence for the existence of a separate Gulf War syndrome. CFS is a positive diagnosis in only 12 per cent of the cases.

The other diagnoses are varied but are of well recognised medical conditions not peculiar to Gulf War service.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL COKER  
(Consultant physician),  
Princess Alexandra's  
Royal Air Force Hospital,  
Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire,  
January 18.

The Secretary of State for Environment has warned local authorities that enforcement notices should be issued "only where planning reasons clearly warrant such action". Thus they must exercise care in borderline cases.

The inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to hear appeals are, on the whole, experienced and sensible men and women. They are well able to spot the difference between the ambitions of a greedy developer, the presumptions of an over-zealous planning authority, and the concern of a puzzled householder who is very upset at what he considers to be unfair treatment.

The overriding injunction is to ask for permission. One can always appeal against it, if it is refused, but in the interim no offence has been committed.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
13 Lynwood Road, Ealing, W5.

## Wary welcome for age of Ophiuchus

From Dr Patrick Moore, FRAS

Sir, May I put the astrological record straight, please. I cannot understand why we are hearing all this nonsense about a new zodiacal sign (report, January 21). The facts have been known for many centuries, and there is nothing new in this. The constellation patterns are meaningless, since a constellation is made up of chance alignments of stars at very different distances from us: there is no real connection between them.

We happen to use the patterns given by the Greeks. If we had followed, say, the Egyptian patterns we would have had a Cat and a Hippopotamus instead of a Ram and a Bull. We can make up what patterns we like; they mean nothing.

The ecliptic — the projection of the Earth's orbit on the sky — passes through 13 of the constellations accepted by the International Astronomical Union: the 12 usually regarded as zodiacal, and Ophiuchus, which spreads down across the ecliptic between Scorpius and Sagittarius. But again, this is merely because we have made up these patterns, and in any case the maps of the sky we now use have been unchanged for a very long time.

So I repeat that this is "old hat": nothing new in it, and of course astrology is in any case the most obvious rubbish.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK MOORE,  
Farrington,  
West Street, Selsey, Sussex,  
January 21.

From Dr Leslie A. Hill

Sir, It should surely be easy to discover whether astrology is true or not. All the researchers would have to do is find out in what percentage of cases the forecasts of the "expert" astrologers came true.

For astrology to be genuine, the answer should work out at 100 per cent; but if the percentage corresponded only to what one would expect from random success, it would mean that astrology was a fake.

Yours sincerely,  
LESLIE HILL,  
La Prairie, St Mary, Jersey, CI,  
January 22.

## 'Sleaze' and subsidy

From Commander R. N. L. Welby RNR (retd)

Sir, It is to be hoped that Lord Nolan, in his investigation into standards of public life (report, January 20), will look at the bribes given by the Government to get the votes they wanted to approve giving our fishermen's livelihood to the Spaniards (report, January 19).

In effect the payment to our fishing industry is a subsidy to the Spanish one to enable it to keep fishing. A bizarre use of our taxpayers' money!

If condemnation of this Government's achievements "at the heart of Europe" were needed, surely its inability to protect either our fishermen's industry or our calves from sadistic farming abroad furnishes adequate proof.

Yours etc,  
R. N. L. WELBY,  
The Lawn, Diphord,  
Trull, Taunton, Somerset.

## Salami tactics

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, The letter from Mr Howell (January 17), who works for an environmental services department, with a title as pedantic as his thinking, said it all. With professional pride, he assures Mr Pugh (letter, January 13) that he could not buy 14 oz of sausage because he is now protected by an EC directive that establishes a "minimum load" for retail weighing machines.

Of course, Mr Howell, weighing discrepancies are proportionately greater for small loads, but the actual size of the errors will be small enough to be irrelevant to anyone but the EC official.

What is his solution? Why — that the retailer should buy a better weighing machine. Thus the consumer will be able to buy small quantities — but of course at the higher price needed to offset the retailer's expensive new equipment.

Large companies have just started deserting the Tories (report, January 17). Small businessmen deserted them a long time ago, as much as anything because after all this time they still allow us to be plagued by pernicious know-alls and their silly EC directives.

Yours faithfully,  
G. THOMAS,  
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

## Hard to stomach?

From Miss Christine E. Avery

Sir, In a local shop I have just seen a sign on a food-shelf which said "Recommended for Burns Night" (a week from today, January 25). Behind the sign were several haggis. The labels on the haggis said "use by 23rd January".

Yours etc,  
CHRISTINE E. AVERY,  
27 Guildford Road West,  
Farnborough, Hampshire,  
January 18.







# PETER LUKE

"We drove yesterday to Strizma, a village into and about which 6,000 fugitives are now crowded, in addition to over 600 natives. Strizma is reached in two hours from Kün by an excellent road. The village is situated on a hill, directly on the Turkish frontier on the top of a hill in the middle of a valley, surrounded by steep and rugged limestone mountains. On this hill top stands a large building, defended by a wall, formerly the barracks of the garrison, and now destroyed. It was used last summer for two months as a hospital for the wounded insurgents. We hope to induce the rich man to whom it belongs to let it as a school-house. It is disgraceful that this and another building beside it, formerly the general store, and the Turkish post office, should have to stand empty in the midst of so much misery and overcrowding.

"There are few wilder scenes than from the hill top of Strizma. On the opposite mountain side, the ruins of the houses of the village of Kün are the ruined houses of the Christian village of Zisak, burnt and destroyed last Summer by the Turks. ... How long is this misery and disorder to



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SMALL BUSINESS 30

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Richard Cork on Poussin at the Royal Academy



SPORT 40-44

Local hero cracks as Agassi raises roof in Melbourne

THE NEW BAR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN Law 35-37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 24 1995

Bill to meet share options would be £500m

## Glaxo bids £9bn for rival

By SARAH BAGNALL

GLAXO, the world's largest drugs company, has launched a £9.9 billion offer for its rival Wellcome, the largest bid the City has seen in an effort to survive the increasingly hostile trading conditions in the pharmaceutical industry.

The Wellcome Trust, which owns 39.5 per cent of the target's equity, accepted the offer late on Sunday night, ahead of yesterday's announcement. In contrast, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, only phoned John Robb, Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, moments before the deal was made public. As a result, Wellcome's management is still digesting the offer and urging shareholders "to take no action" until a decision is reached.

The offer values Wellcome's shares at £0.25 each — a premium of about 49 per cent to its share price of 68p last Friday, and 28 per cent more than the 800p private investors paid in September 1992, when Wellcome Trust reduced its stake from 73.5 per cent to 50 per cent.

Yesterday, Wellcome's shares leapt 39 per cent, up 273p to 96p, while Glaxo's slid 44p to 59p. Wellcome shareholders are being offered £72 in cash and 47 new Glaxo shares for every 100 Wellcome shares. Glaxo is funding the £6.3 billion cash element through new banking facilities, which will transform Glaxo into a highly geared company. This is in sharp contrast to the current net cash position of £2 billion.

Sir Richard said the deal reflected the need to adapt to changes in the industry. "The pharmaceutical industry used to be a producer environment," he said.



Sir Richard Sykes fended off media questions yesterday after saying the offer for Wellcome reflected the need to adapt to changes in the industry

Pharmaceutical companies are under intense pricing pressure, margins are being eroded, research and development costs are rising, and as a result deal fever has hit the industry.

Sir Richard said the offer, which followed months of deliberation, offered significant opportunities for rationalisation, and hence, cost cutting. There is a large degree of overlap between the two companies — they both have research facilities in northern California and large facilities in the UK.

Early workings from analysts suggest that about £500 million of annual costs could be stripped out of the enlarged group, which will be called Glaxo Wellcome.

Rationalisation will not be limited to research and development. Sir Richard said: "We believe there are significant opportunities to achieve operational efficiencies in research and development, manufacturing, selling and administration."

He said it was too early to calculate the eventual cost in staff numbers from Glaxo's 44,000 and Wellcome's 17,500 employees.

The City is forecasting that exceptional costs will be between £500 million and £1 billion as a result of the rationalisation.

Sir Richard said that in ten years' time the pharmaceutical industry will be dominated by a handful of large groups. He wants Glaxo to number among them.

"We have taken one step with the Wellcome offer and we will take another if needed. It only needed three or four deals in the US and we could have become marginalised," he said.

along with Financial Dynamics, the PR firm, and Clifford Chance. Wellcome is advised by Baring, Morgan Stanley and Co.

The bid should boost Clifford Chance's ranking in *Acquisitions Monthly's* annual league table of takeover advisers; it was fifth last year.

Pennington, page 25  
Market report, page 26  
Diary and feature, page 27

offer would rise to £9.4bn over options

GLAXO is faced with a bill of £500 million to meet the share options held by Wellcome's directors and employees if the takeover deal goes ahead. This would push the offer price up to £9.4 billion. Usually share options are exercised when a change of ownership occurs.

According to Wellcome's latest annual accounts, at August 31, 1993, employees held options over 45.1 million shares. The executive scheme had options over 12.4 million.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive, has options over 250,750 shares now worth £2.6 million and owns a further £3.750. Wellcome would not comment on whether Russell Walls, the finance director who joined the company two weeks ago, has been granted any options.

under discussion. Mr Newmarch, who joined the Pru in 1955, last year took a stand against the Personal Investment Authority, the new regulator for companies selling investment products to the public. He refused to join it, opting for regulation by the SIB.

Last August it emerged that the Prudential was the subject of an informal investigation by Lauro, the then regulator for life companies, over the personal pension selling practices of its sales staff. The company said last night: "We are still in discussions with Lauro over its informal investigation." Sir Brian Corby, Prudential chairman, will take on Mr Newmarch's role until a chief executive is chosen.

Pennington, page 25

Newmarch quits Pru after clashes with City regulators

BY ROBERT MILLER

MICK NEWMARCH last night quit as chief executive of Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest insurer, after the company admitted that his relationship with City regulators had broken down and that the Stock Exchange is investigating his dealings in the company's shares.

A terse statement from the Prudential said: "Mr Newmarch explained to the company's board that he found that the current relationship between the UK retail financial services regulators and both himself and the company has become unacceptable to him and he feels he is being put in an unacceptable position with regard to his position as chief executive of Prudential Corporation."

The statement added: "The Stock Exchange has asked a number of questions of the company relating to transactions in Prudential shares by Mr Newmarch last October."

This is understood to relate to a transaction on October 25, when Mr Newmarch exercised a share option just before it expired and sold shares in the company earning a profit of more than £200,000. He was subsequently granted options over a further 140,500 ordinary Prudential shares.

The transaction took place hours before a damning report on personal pensions mis-selling was published by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and just two days before the company revealed a sharp downturn in new pensions business.

The Prudential said: "The company wishes to state that all transactions by Prudential directors or relevant employees are governed by the company's own rules, which comply fully with Stock Exchange requirements and best practice."

The terms of a compensation payment to Mr Newmarch, who was on a three-year rolling contract and last year earned £834,068, are

under discussion. Mr Newmarch, who joined the Pru in 1955, last year took a stand against the Personal Investment Authority, the new regulator for companies selling investment products to the public. He refused to join it, opting for regulation by the SIB.

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Pennington, page 25

Newmarch: 40 years at Pru

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FT-SE 100 2854.3 (-40.8)  
FT-SE All-Share 2411.8 (-2,401.1)  
Nikkei 17765.49 (-1064.75)  
New York Dow Jones 3243.89 (-25.57)  
S&P Composite 482.14 (-2.54)

US DOLLAR

London 1.5857 (1.5857)  
New York 1.5857 (1.5857)  
Frankfurt 1.5857 (1.5857)  
Paris 1.5857 (1.5857)  
Tokyo 1.5857 (1.5857)

Oil

Brent 15-day (Apr) \$16.80 (\$16.80)  
London close \$32.15 (\$32.15)

\* denotes midday trading price

## City types get high on latest drug cocktail

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Krug was flowing in the Savoy Grill yesterday as bankers and lawyers toasted "the Big One" — the glorious £9.9 billion engagement between the two giants of world pharmaceuticals, Glaxo and Wellcome.

Their euphoria is understandable. The City earned £120 million from takeovers last year. Investment bankers, lawyers, accountants and PR

consultants are expected to earn about £140 million from the Glaxo/Wellcome deal alone.

Lazard Brothers, Barings and Morgan Stanley are among the advisers who stand to earn a pretty penny out of the City's biggest agreed takeover. It may lack the blazing guns of a really nasty hostile bid — but who cares?

The only bigger deal was Sir James Goldsmith's ultimately fruitless £13.4

billion punt for BAT Industries in 1989. While the previous record was set by Smithkline of America, which wasted in with a £4.5 billion merger with Beecham Group in April 1989.

Philip Healey, editor and publisher of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said Glaxo's bid dwarfed anything that has come before. "The theme is 'big' — big for the pharmaceutical companies, who are all trying to get together," Lazard and House Govett are advising Glaxo

along with Financial Dynamics, the PR firm, and Clifford Chance. Wellcome is advised by Baring, Morgan Stanley and Co.

The bid should boost Clifford Chance's ranking in *Acquisitions Monthly's* annual league table of takeover advisers; it was fifth last year.

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## Cadbury confirms Dr Pepper talks

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S, the UK confectioner, has confirmed talks about a possible purchase of the outstanding 77 per cent of Dr Pepper, the US soft drinks group, but set rigid limits on what it will pay.

The statement, which came after a weekend of speculation sparked by reports from New York, where Dr Pepper is quoted, that the two were in merger talks, Cadbury said the cash payout for the remaining shares would be financed both by debt and equity.

The formal confirmation left Cadbury shares, in a soggy London market, down 12p to 389p. Dr Pepper is the third-biggest US soft drinks company, with 11 per cent of a \$50 billion market, and the acquisition of the whole of the company would represent a significant expansion by Cadbury.

Although the British company stressed that "there can

be no assurances" that talks would end in a definitive agreement to merge, analysts expect an announcement of an agreed bid later this week at about \$33 a share. This would put a price on Cadbury's existing holding of 23 per cent, on a fully-diluted basis, of just over \$500 million and value all of Dr Pepper at \$2 billion.

Cadbury would also take on board debts of \$830 million from Dr Pepper. The group put the stock market on warning that a rights issue of £500 million would be needed to help to fund the deal. But agreement will only take place as long as the purchase price would not dilute earnings for 1995 before reorganisation costs and would leave the company with interest cover of more than 4.5 times that year's profits.

Yesterday's preliminary figures suggested that growth in 1994 as a whole was 4 per cent — too fast in the Bank of

England's view, to be sustainable. Together with figures last week showing higher than expected producer and retail price inflation, and a reasonable rise in retail sales in December, the argument for a base rate rise at the monthly meeting with the Chancellor on February 2 appears to be quite strong.

Nevertheless, there were some doubts about the picture painted by yesterday's figures. Services grew at around the same rate as in the third quarter, but growth in manu-

facturing was estimated to have been "markedly down" on the third quarter. Making up the difference, according to the CSO, was construction, which bounced back quite strongly from a very weak third quarter.

This contrasts with the studiously gloomy message yesterday from the UK Building Employers Confederation, which said output growth and inquiries for new work fell sharply in the fourth quarter, and that companies are increasingly gloomy.

In addition, yesterday's Gallup poll on consumer confidence found that, although consumers are feeling better about their household finances and the economic situation, pessimists still outnumber optimists. Gallup said it remains to be seen whether the improvement in confidence can be sustained.

THE disclosure by *The Times* last Saturday that Greville Janner, QC, the Labour MP who heads the Commons Employment Select Committee, has a declared interest in a consultancy that advises British Gas, has added piquancy to today's hearing on executive pay.

Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, is due to answer questions in respect of his £475,000 salary. Mr Janner, MP for Leicester West, lists that he is a director and shareholder of JSB Group, a consultancy firm which advises on "presentational skills". In a recent brochure, JSB names British Gas as a client.

Sir Kenneth Warren, former chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, said that a precedent regarding Mr Janner's predicament exists. Sir Kenneth pointed out that, during his

## British economy still growing strongly

By JANET ROSE, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PREDICTIONS that the economy had slowed down in the last three months of 1994, as consumer demand weakened under the weight of higher interest rates and taxes, proved to be an illusion yesterday as figures were published which showed that growth matched that in the third quarter.

The Central Statistical Office said that gross domestic product increased by 0.8 per cent, the same rise as the previous quarter. This gave an annual growth rate against the final quarter of 1993 of 4 per cent, only a touch below the 4.1 per cent recorded in the third quarter.

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chairmanship of the Trade and Industry Committee, he faced a one-day hearing on British Telecom, which was a client of a company of which he was a declared director.

According to Sir Kenneth: "The advice of the senior parliamentary staff I consulted was that the decision was entirely mine as to whether I remained in the chair, but they could see that it would be sensible to ensure that no conflict of interest could be considered to exist." In the event, Sir Kenneth chose to withdraw from the chair.

Speculation in Westminster had it that Mr Janner might consider vacating the chair for Mr Brown's evidence, but not for evidence from other industrialists. But if a chairman is in the committee room he must take the chair.

Turning up the heat, page 27

Janner might stand down in gas probe

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

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Turning up the heat, page 27

Janner might stand down in gas probe

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

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## Rate rise 'could kill building recovery'

By CARL MORTIMER

THE fragile recovery in the building sector is in jeopardy, with construction companies facing a year of falling growth in output, slim margins and fewer jobs. Builders warned the Government that further rises in interest rates could worsen the deteriorating outlook for the industry.

Sir Brian Hill, president of the Building Employers Confederation, said construction industry output was expected to grow only 1.2 per cent in 1995, almost half the 1994 estimated growth rate. Presenting the BEC's fourth quarter state of trade figures, he painted a grim picture of falling inquiries for new work and severe overcapacity. He has written to the Chancellor "to emphasise the serious damage any further rise in interest rates would cause".

Sir Brian said hardest hit were small builders who dominate the domestic repair market, which accounts for 20 per cent of UK construction. Almost a third of firms recorded fewer enquiries than in the previous quarter and 20 per cent of respondents to the BEC survey said they were operating at less than half their capacity. The full impact of cuts in social housing and infrastructure spending in the last Budget had yet to be felt, Sir Brian said.

Industry output figures for the last quarter of 1994 showed a disappointing slowdown, with 86 per cent of firms indicating output remained at the same level or decreased. The BEC estimates 1994 output growth was 2.6 per cent, well below predictions of 4 per cent after a strong recovery in the first half.

Tempus, page 26  
Philip Bassett, page 27



Putting you through: Inmarsat executives Jai Singh, left, Olof Lundberg, centre, and Ramin Khadem

## Treasury and DTI unite against free Post Office

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GREATER commercial freedom for the Post Office is "inconsistent" with the Government's strict control over public finances, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Treasury will announce tomorrow.

The statement will form the clearest possible rejection of the Post Office's repeated calls for a new financial framework to allow it to compete with increasing domestic and international postal services.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, will be questioned tomorrow on the future of the Post Office when he appears before the Commons' all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee.

Labour yesterday attacked his rejection of a new framework, which was contained in a letter to the committee

reported by The Times. Dr Jack Cunningham, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said Mr Heseltine was "deliberately sabotaging" the future of the Post Office.

The extent of the Government's rejection is made clear in a document prepared for the committee hearing. Significantly, it comes not just from the DTI, the Post Office's sponsoring department, but also from the Treasury.

While it says the Government is still considering the way forward for the Post Office after the decision to abandon privatisation, it says: "The Government does not believe that it could responsibly give the business the far-reaching commercial freedoms it is seeking while it retains the very substantial advantages of public sector ownership in the

highly competitive communications market."

The DTI and Treasury document also states that the Government has considered how far it could amend the Post Office's existing financial regime by relaxing specific controls. These have included freeing the Post Office from its overall capital expenditure limit, allowing it greater freedom to reinvest retained profits, introducing greater flexibility of its external financing limit, and replacing the Royal Mail's efficiency targets with direct control over prices.

But the paper says: "The Government sees serious difficulties in freeing the Post Office from all controls as long as it remains in the public sector. Such an approach would be inconsistent with the Government's maintaining strict control over public finances."

While the Post Office remained in the public sector, "the business would be effectively protected from failure, as any commercial losses would be funded by the taxpayer, giving it an 'unjustified advantage' in new commercial activities against competitors."

While the Government accepts there is scope for some commercial flexibility for the Post Office through its Private Finance Initiative, it considers this limited, and says "the changes that would be possible within the public sector would fall short of the commercial needs of the Royal Mail". The departments say any changes for the Post Office would mean alterations to the "standard control regime" for nationalised industries in general.

## Funding on course for telephone satellite

By ERIC PROBY

INMARSAT, a 76-country satellite communications co-operative, has raised \$1.4 billion of the \$2.8 billion cost of launching a satellite phone system by the end of the decade.

The \$1.4 billion represents the total equity requirements for the project, based in London, for the next three years. Merrill Lynch International, the group's financial adviser, eventually hopes to raise another \$600 million from "strategic" investors such as satellite makers, and about \$800 million in debt.

The project is being directed through an affiliate, called Inmarsat-P, whose new investors include more than three dozen telecoms groups and agencies from around the world. They include Deutsche Telekom, Swiss Telecom PTT, Samsung Electronics of Korea and Comsat Corporation, a US entertainment and satellite communications group.

Inmarsat is also an investor. The co-operative, through its 76 owners, including British Telecom, has committed \$150 million.

Olof Lundberg, Inmarsat's director-general, said Inmarsat-P had to raise equity from subscribers. "The number and prominence of the investors demonstrates the overwhelming support and confidence of the telecommunications world in the programme."

Inmarsat-P's strong government contingent is expected to help the group to overcome regulatory hurdles. Service providers in each country, for example, will have to receive operating licences before they can sign up customers.

Subscribers will be able to use a wireless phone, no larger than portable handsets in use today, to call anywhere in the world. Inmarsat-P said satellite communications charges are likely to cost \$2 a minute, and the handset about \$1,000.

Its successful financing raises the stakes in the race to provide satellite phones. No fewer than three other consortiums have similar plans.

## Pensions fight goes to the High Court

THE legal powers of City watchdogs are to be challenged in the High Court today when independent financial advisers seek a judicial review of the proposed guidelines for identifying investors who were mis-sold personal pensions. A ruling is expected within ten days. If successful, it could result in a delay in compensation payments to many investors.

The IFA Association, a trade body representing independent financial advisers, yesterday launched the Transfer Review Action Campaign, claiming that it was "grossly" unreasonable and outside the law to expect its members to write to clients who were advised to transfer or opt out of an existing or former occupational pension scheme. This was an invitation to investors to sue their financial advisers and would invalidate advisers' professional indemnity insurance. The Personal Investment Authority will finish considering compensation guidelines laid down by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief city regulator, this Friday. A PIA spokesman said: "We are minded to accept the SIB guidelines, with certain modifications."

## Very plastic Christmas

CHRISTMAS shoppers spent £6.7 billion on their credit and debit cards last month, up 24 per cent on December 1993. Supermarkets and other food retailers did particularly well as shoppers spent £3.9 billion on their credit cards, a rise of 18 per cent on December 1993, and £2.8 billion on debit cards, up 27 per cent. Gift stores did well too, with spending in jewellers, florists, bookshops and record stores up 40 per cent at £1.4 billion. But in department stores credit and debit card spending was up a more modest 7 per cent. Total credit card spending last year was up 13 per cent to £36 billion, while debit card spending was up 25 per cent at £22 billion.

## JJB set to beat forecast

JJB SPORTS, Britain's largest independent sports retailer, following buoyant trading expects to beat the profit forecast made at the time of its flotation last November. David Whelan, the chairman and former Blackburn Rovers player who founded the chain, said sales in the 48 weeks to January 1 were 44 per cent higher than the same period last year. Like-for-like sales were 14 per cent. As a result, he expects pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 will comfortably exceed the £6.6 million forecast in the run-up to the flotation. Robert Miller, of Charterhouse, the investment bank, said the deal is conditional on the buyer successfully raising the cash purchase price of £543 million for Gardner Merchant, Tempus, page 26

## Sale windfall for Forte

FORTE will raise £140 million from the sale of its 24 per cent in Gardner Merchant, the catering services business, to Sodexo, the French caterer. The cash will help to ease Forte's debts, which were more than £1 billion at the half-year end in September. A formal agreement for Sodexo to buy Gardner Merchant was signed at the weekend, and contracts have now been exchanged for the purchase of Forte's holding. The investment was expected to earn £9 million in the current financial year and has a book value of £80 million. The deal is conditional on the buyer successfully raising the cash purchase price of £543 million for Gardner Merchant, Tempus, page 26

## Levy Gee joins CKL

LEVY GEE, the UK's 20th largest accounting firm, has joined the international accounting network of CKL, bringing to an end the current round of musical chairs among worldwide accountancy groups. Michael Connolly, the chairman of CKL, which until the UK firm of Clark Whitehill left used to be known as Clark Kenneth Leventhal, said that CKL, now the 14th biggest such organisation worldwide, was "an important element in allowing clients to expand and go cross border". Binder Hamlyn, Stoy Hayward, Clark Whitehill and Levy Gee have been jockeying for a share of international business.

## Tarmac wins contract

TARMAC has won a major civil engineering contract for the £110 million Derby southern bypass. The 19-kilometre dual carriageway is a key part of the Stoke-on-Trent to Derby link, joining the M6 with the M1. It is designed to ease traffic congestion within Derby and a number of south Derbyshire villages. Construction of the bypass is due to be completed in 1997. The award by the Highways Agency comes just a week after the professional services division of the Wolverhampton-based group was appointed to manage the construction of the £150 million redevelopment of London's Royal Opera House.

## Disruption hits Seacon

DISRUPTION caused by a new port development affected profits at Seacon, the shipping and port services company. In the year to September 30 pre-tax profits fell to £937,000 from £1.7 million. Earnings fell to 2.5p a share from 4.61p. There is a final dividend of 1.43p a share, making a total of 2.4p (2.28p). The shares eased 10p to 92p. The decline was blamed on the new Northfleet terminal. Results were hurt by temporarily increased costs and reduced operational efficiency during construction and running in. There was also a reduction of some £470,000 in net interest received as a direct result of the capital expenditure on the project.

## GA boosted by pensions

GENERAL Accident announced an increase of £300,000 in its annual premium pension business to £7.8 million in 1994. Single premium pension business rose more sharply to £138 million against £97.9 million previously. The single premium business was boosted by a £56.9 million contribution from new investment products aimed at pension scheme trustees.

Total new business at General Accident on annual premiums in 1994 rose to £53.8 million from £52.8 million, while total single premium business increased to £569.8 million compared with £530.3 million last year.

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**ACCORD ENERGY LIMITED**  
This notice is given in accordance with section 195 of the Companies Act 1985 in relation to the proposed acquisition of the shares of Accord Energy Limited by the holders of the shares of Accord Energy Limited.

**ACCORD ENERGY LIMITED**  
2. Address of the company or the company of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:  
100 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3AL

3. Where the acquisition is to be effected by the offer of shares of the company, the name and address of the offeror:  
The offeror is the company of a body corporate, the registered or principal office of which is at 100 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3AL.

4. Where the acquisition is to be effected by the offer of shares of the company, the name and address of the person or persons who are to be responsible for the acquisition:  
The person or persons who are to be responsible for the acquisition are the directors of the company, the registered or principal office of which is at 100 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3AL.

5. A statement of the reasons for the acquisition:  
The reasons for the acquisition are the reasons set out in the offer document.

6. A statement of the terms and conditions of the acquisition:  
The terms and conditions of the acquisition are the terms and conditions set out in the offer document.

7. A statement of the financial position of the company:  
The financial position of the company is set out in the offer document.

8. A statement of the financial position of the offeror:  
The financial position of the offeror is set out in the offer document.

9. A statement of the financial position of the person or persons who are to be responsible for the acquisition:  
The financial position of the person or persons who are to be responsible for the acquisition is set out in the offer document.

10. A statement of the financial position of the company of a body corporate, the registered or principal office of which is at 100 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3AL:  
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□ Wellcome faces unwelcome logic □ Prudential loses its chief □ REC relies on triple strategy

## Glaxo takes up the challenge

THE GOOD news is that Glaxo's record bid for Wellcome would create a healthy, British world leader in an industry where the old country earns its prominent place at top table. Glaxo intends to keep it. The more chastening news is that the move is defensive, even though both companies are coming money. Hence the seemingly strange choice of Wellcome.

Glaxo's Zantac, the blockbuster of blockbusters in the drug world, is nearing the end of its patent life. So why team up with Wellcome, which has an uncannily similar problem with Zovirax, and fewer promising new products to replace it? Sir Richard Sykes, new head of Britain's top pharmaceuticals group, reckons Glaxo knows the problem and is having more success dealing with it. It should therefore not hinder his purpose to buy market share affordably.

Wellcome is available, if the High Court allows the Wellcome Trust to deliver. Its share price is notoriously volatile. It is the biggest rival Glaxo reckons it can afford, not least because accounting rules would virtually wipe out Glaxo's £5.2 billion shareholders' funds. And it offers the best prospect for cost savings. Product ranges are complementary but research and marketing territories duplicate heavily. Glaxo is hardly bid-happy. Its

last British takeover was in the 1960s. Only an ambitious vision has overcome caution. As Sir Richard agrees, buying another company earning profits of £700 million a year — one of Britain's top growth companies in its own right — is essentially only a building block. The world pharmaceutical industry is changing fast as governments and insurance companies attack the rising cost of curing more people of more afflictions. Prices will come under ever-stronger pressure, through choosing more generics, avoiding new patent drugs unless they offer a big advance and using buying power to force prices lower.

How should the drug companies respond? Some of Glaxo's top competitors have opted for vertical integration, buying, expensively into America's new generation drug-buying disease management companies. Others have eyed the over-the-counter market, to exploit brand names to ensure a profitable life after patent in a market where pressure will grow for more consumers to be allowed to follow Japan and buy direct.

Glaxo appears unsure which way the wind will eventually blow. But it has a third vision. If the industry is to be driven by customers instead of producers, then it will surely follow other multinational industries where a few global players dominate.

If the top five control most of the airline and car markets, Sir Richard muses, why should the top five drug firms have less than 20 per cent? If Glaxo ensures it remains the world leader with 53 per cent, it is well placed for the industry's consolidation, or to pursue other strategies later. Wellcome, thinking itself safe, will find it hard to resist.

### Regulators pot rogue elephant

IN THE financial world of the 1990s, you could not get much more politically incorrect than Mick Newmarch, the forceful chief executive of the Prudential. He refused to co-operate with the Government and the City establishment. Confident that he was steering a sound, clean ship, he treated inquiring regulators as



tiresome enemies. His pay package and lengthy contract did not fit the modern approved mode. He made enemies and, seeing little need to justify the outward appearance of actions he regarded as perfectly proper, provided them with ammunition. Inevitably, perhaps, the new breed of regulators, bureaucrats and City politicians have finally potted the man they saw as the ultimate rogue elephant.

Mr Newmarch knew he had done a good job, both as investment manager and later as chief executive of Britain's largest life assurance company. He has taken tough actions to undo mistakes, slip the past and slim the Pru into a powerful marketing force for tomorrow's investment

markets. Used to calling the shots in the biggest companies, he did not expect to know-  
Unfortunately for him, these included influential, politically astute figures. For them, Mr Newmarch's ultimate sin was to reject the Personal Investment Authority. He damned it, rightly. Its prospectus was neither public regulation nor self-regulation but an unsatisfactory political compromise. Still worse, he then refused to have anything to do with it, opting, as he legally could, to be ruled by the Securities and Investments Board.

Right as might be, Mr Newmarch badly misread what was happening. The Government demanded faster action from the City to control bad practice and charged Andrew Large, head of the SIB, with delivering. The City resolved to pay the price, even if others loathed the details of the FIA. Regulators have never given up trying to persuade the Prudential board, if not Mr Newmarch, to change its mind. Sir Denis Rooke, a comparable figure at British Gas, found it does not pay to patronise regulators. Mr

Newmarch made badly timed share deals and Stock Exchange statements. The Pru was not flawless in selling policies. Without Big Mick, expect an ever-so-humble Prudential to fall into line.

### Northern powers up its defence

THIS is still the phoney war between Northern Electric and Trafalgar House, before the decision over a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference is taken, but the general drive of Northern's projected defence is becoming clear.

This might best be summed up as bribery, strategic alliance and innuendo. The last first there are some dark mutterings, much of them entirely justified, about Trafalgar's corporate structure, its biggest shareholder Jardine Matheson's Bermuda base and the rather complex network of executives that control the two companies and other arms of the Keswick empire. Is a company that does not always comply with the Cadbury code good enough

to run a public utility? Northern appears to be asking.

The strategic alliance relates to the putative, potential "white knight" that might rescue the company, if such rescue is eventually needed. Takeover rules mean any such party can easily wait until the future course of the bid is clearer. Northern, whose terminological room for manoeuvre is heavily circumscribed by those same rules, says merely that a possible rescuer had made informal contact.

The obvious candidate is Yorkshire Electricity, under possible takeover threat itself, speculators think, from Hanson. But this suggestion looks wide of the mark; a better punt might be Scottish Power, also sharing a border with Northern and keener than Yorkshire to expand geographically.

As to bribery, a wise observer reading between the lines of yesterday's defence document might expect some goodies to be on offer later in the battle, but timed so they would only become available if the company is not taken over. Expect, therefore, some sort of special dividend, share consolidation or perhaps a further share buy-back, following the 10 per cent Northern has already bought, to be wheeled out once the company needs some serious ammunition. Shareholders should hang on.

## Northern Electric hints at possible white knights

By ERIC REGULY

NORTHERN Electric, which yesterday released a defence document urging shareholders to reject Trafalgar House's bid, said it had received calls from potential white knights but said no formal discussions were underway.

"There are a lot of players in the field, so it wouldn't be surprising if one got the odd phone call," said David Morris, Northern's chairman.

He said he did not initiate the calls, which were handled by SG Warburg, Northern's adviser. "We would very much like to remain an independent company," he said.

None of the calls are thought to have come from the regional electricity companies in England and Wales. Analysts continue to play down the possibility of competing bid. They said there is little reason for an acquirer to compete with Trafalgar's £1.2-billion bid when 11 other electricity companies are available.

Northern's defence document contains little new. Its main argument is that Trafalgar's offer of 58.48 p.a. share, excluding its 6.5 per cent stake in the National Grid, contains no premium and significantly undervalues the company.

The £3.45 represents a multiple of 10 times last year's earnings. Northern said, compared to 19 for the companies in the FT-SE Mid-100 index. It also said the so-called Grids, the optional £2-a-share Trafalgar bonds that can be converted

into shares of the National Grid when it is floated, are of questionable value.

Northern will release details on how it intends to boost shareholder value on February 17. Options include paying a special dividend and buying back shares.

Mr Morris said he hopes the bid will go to the Monopolies Commission, to examine public-interest issues, including whether a "financially stretched predator" like Trafalgar "should be able to take advantage of Northern Electric's strength to the detriment of the customer".

Northern, at Trafalgar's request, has called an extraordinary general meeting for February 17. Shareholders will vote to remove a company rule, which Trafalgar has called a poison pill, that prevents any one shareholder from owning more than 15 per cent of the shares.

Trafalgar said Northern's references to Trafalgar's financial strength and its call for an MMC inquiry on public-interest grounds "are no more than a smokescreen".

Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief executive, said criticising the value of the Grids carries little weight because shareholders do not have to accept them. "If you do not want the Grids, take the cash," he said. "If you want to continue to own regional electricity companies, take the cash and buy others; they are all trading at significantly lower prices."

See Pennington, this page

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Morris received calls



Ronald Noel-Paton, left, and John Menzies, chairman, say that the deal by rival WH Smith will hit distribution profits

## Figures for Menzies up at halfway

JOHN MENZIES yesterday admitted a new distribution deal between WH Smith and News International, parent company of *The Times*, would adversely affect profits from its distribution division (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Ronald Noel-Paton, John Menzies' managing director, said the new agreement would mean that his share of News International business would fall from 24 per cent to about 18 per cent. WH Smith will see its share rise from 12 per cent to 18-19 per cent.

However, Mr Noel-Paton said the reduction would not be material to group profits. His remarks came as the group, chaired by John Menzies, reported a 16 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £7.3 million (£6.3 million) in the six months to October 28. Sales were virtually static at £575.4 million. The interim is lifted to 4.6p (4.1p). *Tempus*, page 26

## IBM returns to annual profits

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

IBM, the world's largest computer maker, made an annual profit last year for the first time since 1990, and easily beat analysts' forecasts with fourth-quarter earnings of \$1.2 billion. In spite of this, Louis Gerstner, chief executive, said he was dissatisfied and wanted more revenue growth.

Profit came to \$2.06 per share for the October to December quarter, compared with 62 cents a share, or \$362 million, for the 1993 period. Analysts had predicted a profit of about \$1.75 per share. Revenue for the quarter was \$19.9 billion, up from \$19.4 billion a year ago. Excluding the proceeds of the sale of its Federal Systems subsidiary counted in the last 1993 quarter, revenue rose 6.6 per cent, from \$18.7 billion. Sales were higher in all world regions except Latin America.

For the year, IBM earned \$2.88 billion, or \$4.92 per share, compared with a loss of \$8.1 billion, or \$14.02 per share, in 1993 after it took a second-quarter restructuring charge of almost \$8 billion. Not including the Federal Systems sale, revenue was \$64.1 billion, up six per cent from \$60.4 billion. Revenue in Europe rose 8 per cent to \$7.6 billion.

The computer giant reported that demand for its large, mainframe computers and storage products far outstripped supply, but that it was disappointed by the weakness in its personal computer business. The company added that it had completed close to four fifths of its \$8 billion expense reduction goal.

Over the past few years IBM has cut tens of thousands of jobs and shed unneeded office space and factories. In 1993 45,000 were fired, while last year 35,000 employees went. It now has 220,000 workers.

IBM ended the year with marketable cash and securities of \$10.6 billion, up \$3.4 billion from 1993.

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2001 is target for a finish to office space odyssey

## Clarke invites offers for Treasury

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, will today offer private property developers the chance to acquire part of the Treasury in return for funding the refurbishment of the department's Whitehall building.

Mr Clarke will disclose that the Treasury is to be the latest candidate for its own Private Finance Initiative, the programme under which the private sector funds specific projects in partnership with the public sector.

The Portland stone building, which forms one side of Parliament Square with a frontage on to Whitehall, was found last year to have serious structural problems. Rather than place the burden of refurbishment on the public purse, Mr Clarke will tell the PFI's annual meeting that he

has decided to put forward the refurbishment plan, likely to cost between £100 million and £200 million, as an "early" PFI project.

In return for bearing the cost and risk of providing new high-tech office accommodation, the selected developer will have available about half of the site to turn into an office block commanding premium rents. While details of the scheme are still being examined, options include retaining the freehold and giving the developers a long lease or even selling the freehold. The Treasury would expect a favourable, long-term lease in return.

Proposals would have to take into account the fact that the Treasury's headquarters, designed by architect John Brydon and unmodernised since it was fully opened in 1917, is a grade II listed building. English Heritage has already been consulted and is "not alarmed"

because all the guidelines it suggested have been accepted. A shortlist will be selected in May and invited to tender for the work, with an appointment made in October. After a two-year period of design and planning applications, the Treasury would vacate and building work would begin, with the aim of it being ready for reoccupation by the end of 2001.

Mr Clarke said: "We are seeking to push the PFI right across the public sector and into new areas. This includes the Treasury itself. This major project opens up a new area of business for the PFI — that of Government accommodation."

Mr Clarke will tell the PFI conference, which will also be addressed by Sir Alastair Morton, its chairman, and Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, that new PFI projects amount to £1 billion, on top of the £5 billion worth of projects already on target for this year.

## New award for market developer

A NEW award, recognising an outstanding contribution to the PLC market, will be inaugurated at the 1994 PLC Awards (Martin Barrow writes).

Nominations are being sought for the first recipient of the award, which will pay tribute to a City professional who has had a significant influence in the development of the London stock market.

Graham Cole, the Coopers & Lybrand partner who masterminded the awards each year, said: "This new award is designed to honour someone who is still very active in the City and participating in the development of the PLC market."

The PLC Awards are held in association with *The Times*. The voting panel is meeting today to consider a list of candidates for company of the year and new company of the year. Voting forms will be published in *The Times* next month. The share of the year award goes to Hawtal Whiting, the engineering services company, whose shares rose to 220p from 43p, a 41 per cent rise. Last year, Rotorik, the specialist engineer, was company of the year, and Roxboro Group, the maker of electronic components, was new company of the year.

## AN ALLIANCE FOR LEADERSHIP, QUALITY AND GROWTH

The Alliance between Gardner Merchant and Sodexho, whilst trading separately, will bring together two highly regarded international organisations. The two companies will, in combination, constitute the largest company of its kind in contract catering and hold a leading position in all the key markets for contract food services.

This unique Alliance will continue to invest in the training of its people, and the quality of its food service operations and systems, to ensure that a platform for enhanced growth is secured throughout the world.

Maintaining the separate identity and development of the two companies, pursuing their activities in similar markets, but exhibiting particular strengths in different parts of the world, will produce the best opportunities for all. The retention of the individual names and identities of the two companies will reflect their different cultural strengths.

Gardner Merchant and Sodexho will dovetail together into the perfect fit.

Gardner Merchant will, in contract food services represent the Alliance in the UK, Ireland, Holland, Australasia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Sodexho will, on its own, represent the Alliance in France, Spain, Italy, Finland, Southern Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, South and Central America and The Middle East.

In other countries, both companies will continue to operate as separate entities.

Kelvin will continue to operate throughout the world as a separate entity under the auspices of Gardner Merchant. Remote Site Services will continue in a similar mode and be controlled by Sodexho.

For any proposed development in a new country the most appropriate member of the Alliance in terms of cultural strength will be the appropriate operator.

Gardner Merchant will maintain an independent Board comprising 5 Gardner Merchant Senior Executives, 4 from Sodexho, and 3 external Non-Executive Directors. Gardner Merchant's Chief Executive, Garry Hawkes, will become Chairman and Chief Executive of Gardner Merchant, will join the Board of Directors of Sodexho, and will be named Directeur Général (Managing Director) of Sodexho, alongside Patrice Douce, also Directeur Général of the Group.

*Une la Difference*

**GARDNER MERCHANT**  
World Service



**MICHAEL CLARK**





## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Sweet and sour pork

THE Year of the Pig (or Wild Boar) looms, and the Singapore office of James Capel has called on five seasoned geomancers to read their rice bowls. The pig-dictions are that drought, earthquakes, land slides and epidemics will be more frequent and more severe, and that there will be a major change in the government of at least one global power. Kuala Lumpur will be the Far East's strongest performer. Hold the metal of the Gods — gold — to deflect bad *fung shui*. It will not be a boating year, the geomancers say. Thundering herds of wild boar will appear in February, and March will be good. After the party comes an April hangover, and in May most boars will stampede away. An international incident will ripple across the geopolitical map in June. July will be corporate deal month. In August, the pigs will be in the pink of health. September could be the year's second-best month. But beware! The bull run ends in October. November will seem like 1994 again — death by a thousand cuts (making bacon). December sees the market grunting back to life. If pigs can fly, then they will positively take off in January when the Singapore market will be at its strongest as old records fall and new highs tested. So there you have it. And in all seriousness — *kung lei fat choy* (to our Cantonese readers), and *gong xi fa cai* to all Mandarin tongues.

### Motor head

SIR ROCCO PORTE might be called many things, but in the hotel trade his nickname is V.W. — after Volkswagen's discontinued Scirocco model.



### Fantasy man

NEWS of Glaxo's near £9 billion bid for Wellcome was greeted with more than passing interest at BBC Television Centre. Business unit editor Paul Gibbs recently launched a fantasy share portfolio competition on BBC2's programme *Working Lunch*, which concentrates on the market's top 100 companies and which has attracted more than 12,000 viewer entries. Gibbs says the interest reflects the abysmal viewing figures of less than 100,000 recently published, and says yesterday's near 40 per cent leap in Wellcome's share price is sure to generate further interest. All Gibbs needs to do now is have a whipround to pay for the winner's trip to New York, which includes three nights at a top hotel and a tour of the New York Stock Exchange. Licence holders take note.

### Bid? What bid?

MEANWHILE, PR group Brunswick must have thought it was soft's law in action when two of its clients, Glaxo and Wellcome, announced their engagement talks yesterday — about which it knew nothing. Brunswick has since "stepped back" from both accounts, proving that there is honour among some PR firms. Financial Dynamics has been called in to hold Glaxo's hand.

COLIN CAMPBELL



On the factory floor, Russell Luckock, chairman of AE Harris, expects interest rates to go up, possibly twice, before the end of the year

## Interest rise may depend on how hard industry is working

Russell Luckock is clear about where interest rates are heading — up. "With inflation rising," says the chairman and managing director of the Birmingham toolmakers AE Harris, "my gut feeling is that interest rates will have to go up again — at least once, and probably twice."

Coupled with yesterday's output figures, the latest indications of the strength of the real economy in today's quarterly industrial trends survey from the CBI will be crucial in determining whether such on-the-ground businessmen are right when, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, meet next week to consider the need for a new rate increase in an attempt to choke off rising inflation.

Central to their calculations on whether the economy is overheating will be the CBI's evidence on prices, and on how hard British industry is now working in the recovery, indications of price rises, pushed up by rising raw material prices, are widely expected. And analysts expect, too, a further increase in manufacturers' capacity utilisation.

AE Harris employs 132 people in a traditional toolmaking business that has operated in Birmingham since 1880: it supplies machine tools for a range of industries, including car, mining and aircraft. Mr Luckock says that after a 25 per cent rise in sales last year, orders so far this year have fallen off, with many companies worried about the impact of higher interest rates on their planned investment.

Accordingly, while parts of his business are running at full capacity, with his laser cutting and turned parts sections currently working from 6am to 10pm, in other areas the factory is a good way from running flat out — and his forecast of further interest rate rises makes him sceptical about claims elsewhere of capacity constraints.

Manufacturing capacity is crucial to the sustainability of the recovery. The degree of capacity utilisation is widely seen as a reliable indicator of aggregate demand. As capacity utilisation rises, companies often tend to switch sales away from foreign markets — exports are currently driving the recovery — to more profitable domestic markets, increasing inflationary pressures and worsening the balance of payments.

CBI evidence is currently giving mixed signals on capacity utilisation. The CBI's figures show that by last autumn, the proportion of companies

### Philip Bassett looks for indications of overheating in the economy from Midlands' businessmen and the CBI

operating below capacity has contracted from around 70 per cent at the low point of the recession in the winter of 1991-92 to only 51 per cent now, while the number of firms reporting capacity as a constraint on output has tripled over the same period — up from about 7 per cent to 22 per cent, though at the same time those citing the need to expand capacity as a reason for investment expenditure is up from a low of 15 per cent to 31 per cent.

While today's figures may help to clarify the picture, such evidence inevitably draws mixed interpretations — not helped by the fact that "capacity" is an awfully slippery concept, with manufacturers often including both fixed investment and labour, according to Kate Barker, CBI chief economist, who will present today's survey.

In engineering, for instance, "most companies have a substantial amount of spare capacity," says Ian Thompson, economic adviser to the engineering employers' body, EEF. But he says too that "for all the trade balance has done well in 1994, the danger is it will go wrong in 1995", partly because of high capacity utilisation.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Research, argues that manufacturing industry is already operating above its normal levels of capacity, and is not far short of the mid-1980s peak associated with a sharp tightening of monetary policy. Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, takes this further: "Capacity constraints and skill shortages are now threatening the sustainability of the recovery at this early stage."

Evidence from the British Chambers of Commerce quarterly trends survey last week puts capacity utilisation at its highest level for five years. But the chambers are concerned about a levelling-out of companies' investment intentions, and suggest that capacity constraints together with skill shortages point to "serious pressures building" in the longer term.

The Treasury is more sanguine believing that current levels of capacity utilisation represent less of a constraint on expansion, and hence less of an inflationary threat, than they have in the past because companies are using their existing capacity more efficiently and have cut their staff. With profitability up and capacity utilisation continuing to rise, the Treasury believes that the need for extra capacity is likely to become an increasingly important investment motive.

Out among manufacturers themselves, uncertainty about demand makes things look a good deal less sure. "It's very fragile," says Alan Brazier, chairman of Vax, a Bromsgrove firm that makes heavy-duty domestic vacuum equipment. "It's better than it was last year — but our orders are coming in by the day, rather than the month."

Accordingly, his factories are running at about 85 per cent capacity, and although the company has put in about £12 million of new investment in plant and equipment over the last ten years, patchy demand in the high street means that the company's turnover is not necessarily reflecting its investment levels, making it cautious about further new money. Mr Brazier cites recent mortgage rate increases as bad for the housing market and therefore for his products.

Deep in the Black Country on the other side of Birmingham, things are a little different at Bloxwich Engineering, a motor components manufacturer that makes door locks and hinges for Honda, Toyota, Rover and VW, and tilting cab locks for trucks.

"Parts of our factory are almost at full capacity," acknowledges Ron Baker, the company's managing director. With £11 million investment in new plant and buildings over the last six years, the company is seeing growth — its workforce is up from 350 in the depth of recession to 470 now, and it is

still hiring — but even so, it still has capacity to spare.

"Capacity is not a problem yet for most companies here," says Tony Bradley, business management and policy director at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. "But we are now getting to the stage where these constraints will start to show."

The CBI's Ms Barker says that capacity utilisation varies sectorally: "Our feeling is that plant capacity is a problem in some specific industries", and studying the detailed sectoral breakdown of the CBI survey over the last four years seems to bear that out.

Very large companies, for instance, are facing the most serious problems, with three-fifths now operating at full capacity — probably because they tend to be the largest exporters, and exports are running well.

In metal manufacturing, full capacity working is very high, though its sectoral figures have consistently outperformed the overall totals throughout the period. Motor industry capacity is also doing well, though it has been much more shaky over the four years, and many companies in textiles, paper, food and chemicals are also clearly working flat out or close to it. By contrast, in the still heavily recession-bound aerospace sector, for example, as many as 92 per cent are working below capacity.

Private CBI analysis undertaken after the last quarterly survey in October tried to assess which was the most important push behind rising industrial prices — capacity constraints or costs — and faced with the clear evidence of sharply increasing raw material prices up and down the country, it saw costs as the more important.

But City economists will study today's CBI findings on both capacity and prices closely for signs of economic overheating that could indicate a further rise in interest rates.

Yesterday's GDP figures, showing growth was slowing even before the most recent rate rise, will count against a new increase. But both the now well-established price pressures and the emerging signs of capacity constraints, including skill shortages, about which companies are increasingly complaining and which today's CBI survey is expected to show, may well push things the other way.

As Vax's Mr Brazier puts it: "We are getting interest rate rises when we are told that the country is doing well. People find that hard to understand."

## Turning up the heat under British Gas

Push for competition will create winners and losers, says Melvyn Marckus

BRITISH GAS, whose chief executive Cedric Brown is due to appear before the Commons Employment Select Committee today, to give evidence on salary scales in privatised industries, found itself at the centre of another storm yesterday.

This time, the controversy surrounded a report by the BBC, based on a leaked document, that British Gas is poised to introduce charges for safety checks and other services to more than one million elderly and disabled customers.

British Gas's Rivermill House HQ, which is fast resembling a fire-fighting unit rather than a commodity supplier, promptly turned on the hose. A spokesman declared: "We have no plans to charge for any of these services."

Displaying a new found expertise in fire-fighting, British Gas took the opportunity to point out that it spends more than £30 million a year operating a "GasCare" register. It added that it is essential that, come competition, new entrants must share the same obligations.

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, was quick to respond. He let it be known that he was absolutely determined that all suppliers would have to offer special services for elderly, disabled or blind persons.

He confirmed that this obligation will be included in the Gas Bill, which he promises to publish "shortly". In his words: "It will be a condition of the licence required by any gas supplier before they can supply domestic customers."

The alacrity with which the Energy Minister spoke out is not altogether surprising. It was Mr Eggar who, not long ago, chose to quote from a document, published by the independent suppliers, entitled *Wouldn't You Just Love to be in Control?* The glad tidings were that, with the introduction of competition, "there will be savings for all customers, large and small, and that the smallest users will enjoy the biggest savings". In the event, this publication — short on numbers but long on words and pictures — was dubbed *The Rupert Bear Annual* by the Gas Consumers Council.

British Gas, as Mr Brown will doubtless point out to the committee, has been privatised for more than eight years, but, with 18 million customers, remains the ultimate political football: not least because 18 million customers presumably equate to some 36 million votes.

First came the row over Mr Brown's £475,000 salary which, as Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman, has consistently pointed out, represents an increase of 28 per cent rather than the headline figure of 75 per cent.

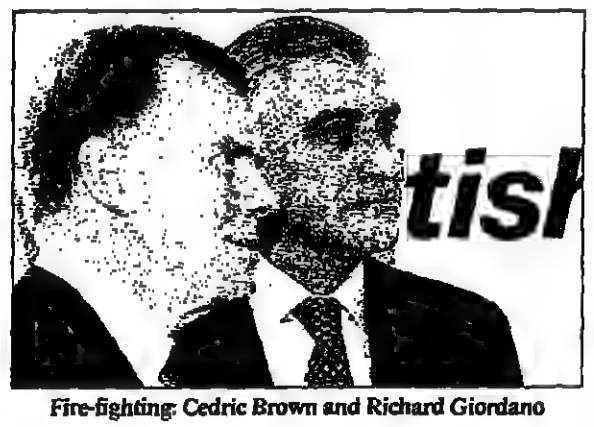
Reports that showroom staff were to be axed and salaries cut followed. Then came the "safety scare" — also based on a leaked memo — which indicated a cutback on gas leak checks from £9 million to £1 million.

As Mr Giordano and Mr Brown made clear in an interview with *The Times* earlier this month, the salaries of showroom staff have not been cut. Equally, hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent on replacing cast iron pipes with polyethylene in order to improve safety performance.

The reality is that the pace of change at British Gas reflects the Government's decision (strongly supported by Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Gas Supply) to achieve the rapid introduction of competition into the domestic gas market.

Whenever British Gas drew attention to the implications of competition it was accused of scaremongering. Now, under Mr Giordano's regime, it has ceased firing warning salvos and is preparing for the brave new world: a far braver world, it may be recalled, than the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommended in 1993. What the MMC advised was that the removal of British Gas's domestic monopoly should not take place until three to five years after the company had divested its trading arm.

But the Government knew best and the MMC's recommendations were turned on their head. Eventually the penny will drop. Competition will herald cost-effective prices which, in turn, will mean winners and losers.



Fire-fighting: Cedric Brown and Richard Giordano

### Sarah Bagnall on drugs industry upheaval

## Glaxo's survival prescription

GLAXO'S bid for Wellcome holds an unmistakable message for the pharmaceutical industry. Drug companies around the world are seeing their traditional markets overturned and are seeking critical mass to ensure their survival. The highly fragmented sector is consolidating — and at an increasing pace. Glaxo is the world's biggest drug company, but only boasts a market share of 3.9 per cent. The Wellcome deal, if successful, will lift that to 5.3 per cent.

More than \$20 billion has been spent on takeovers in the past 18 months and many analysts believe there are billions of dollars yet to be spent. There are several catalysts for the corporate activity in the sector. Every part of the healthcare chain — from financing to dispensing drugs — is in upheaval. The days are over when drugs were sold direct to the doctor, who was concerned with efficacy rather than price. Now, power has shifted from producer to purchaser as governments, companies and insurers seek to cut costs.

This has led to the rise of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), who negotiate with drug manufacturers on behalf of their customers, which tend

to be big employees and insurance companies. The PBMs carry considerable buying muscle because as bulk purchasers of drugs they can demand hefty discounts from manufacturers. In contrast to former days, the PBMs look closely at price.

The tougher pricing environment has eroded margins, which together with rising research and development

costs has forced drug companies to cut costs, build market share or die. The logic behind the Glaxo deal highlights this belief. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive at Glaxo, said: "It only needed three or four deals in the US and we could have become marginalised."



Wellcome produces Retrovir, the AIDS treatment

Typically, it takes between eight and 12 years to bring a drug to market and the risks

at securing access to the market.

Roche's agreed \$5.3 billion bid for Syntex last year was a horizontal move that expanded Roche's activity in its traditional markets while increasing its foothold in America. The rationale behind the deal was twofold. Syntex's best-selling product came off patent in 1993 and, as a result, its sales have fallen sharply.

This threatened to starve the company of funds to finance its R&D appetite. Conversely, Roche needed to cut costs and wanted access to the increasingly important over-the-counter market.

These factors are relevant in Glaxo's bid for Wellcome. Both companies face patent expiries in America for their best-selling drugs. The US patent for Wellcome's Zovirax, the genital herpes treatment, runs out in April 1997, followed in July by the expiry of the US patent for Glaxo's Zantac, the anti-ulcer treatment that is the world's best selling drug.

The potential squeeze on R&D is evident and if Glaxo wants to maintain its R&D spending — 14.9 per cent of sales — costs must be cut.

The R&D spending of Wellcome, which manufactures Retrovir, the AIDS treatment, was about 15 per cent in 1993. Horizontal deals enable rationalisation and in the Glaxo-Wellcome case the opportunities are extensive. These range across the board from R&D to sales and marketing, and will involve job losses and, possibly, pulling some products out of development.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 24 1995

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## Equities fall across the board

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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# ARTS

**DANCE page 33**  
The Royal Ballet takes  
to the road with a  
programme of new work  
for the regions



# Passion wrapped in myths

nourished by his growing desire to acknowledge the supremacy of the natural world. He was able to embrace all its moods, from the most sublime, ineffable darkness of *Landscape with a Man Killed by a Snake* to the superbly ordered tranquility of the recently authenticated *Landscape with a Calm at Sudeley Castle*.

Confronted by this unforced, limpid panorama, I had no difficulty in understanding Cézanne's enthusiasm for Poussin. The latter's spirit informs the great landscapes and bathing scenes of Cézanne's later years, and through him Poussin's work played a formative part in the making of modern art.

● Nicolas Poussin, sponsored by *NatWest*, is at the Royal Academy (0171-499 4380) until April 9. *His Dance to the Music of Time* is featured in an exhibition at the Wallace Collection (until April 9). Poussin Problems is at the National Gallery until April 9 and *Poussin Before Rome* is at Richard Feigen, 6 Ryder St. SW1 until March 3. *Poussin: Words on Paper* opens at the Tate Gallery on 10 or 11. *Anthony Blunt's book on Poussin* has been reissued by Pallas Athene (£24.95).

JOHN RUSSELL  
TAYLOR

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THEATRE: Movement from Marcel Marceau; Buddhist stories; and a double dose of syrup

# Mime from the past master

The Overcoat  
Queen Elizabeth Hall



Marcel Marceau: timeless characters given extra pathos by the artist's experience and inimitable skill

MARCEL MARCEAU is coming up to 72, yet there he was last week at the London Mime Festival, coping with a workload that would have crumpled the shoulders of Atlas. True, he did not turn double-somersaults or play leapfrog with the young disciples he had brought with him, but then spectacular acrobatics were never his thing. What he gave us was three hours of concentrated finesse, as taxing to the body, not to mention the spirit, as the obviously sweaty stuff.

Marceau came to the meat of the evening, a revival of the production of Gogol's *Overcoat* he first presented 44 years ago, only after he had spent 75 minutes alone on the stage, regaining the clown he created even earlier. The white face beneath a Harpo-like frizz gave his Bip an ageless look, while experience had honed the movements themselves down to the minimum needed to bring to life a painter agonising over his canvas, a fiddler wondering why nobody is filling his hat with money, or simply a pair of hands coyly teasing each other. Marceau's Bip had plenty of funny moments, notably as a defence lawyer who made a heartfelt appeal on behalf of his client, only to forget that the heart itself is on his left and not his right side, and a china salesman who ran amok after tettering up ladders for a difficult customer. Darker touches came only in a long, dreamlike item called "Bip Remembers", and then, sparingly, Marceau faced a firing party, braved a battifield, bayoneted the enemy as the bullets flew.

But all that merged into moments that gently evoked the coconut shy and the hurdy-gurdy. Marceau never succumbed to the great peril facing the mime, which is twopenny or cuteness; but it was obvious that his material came from the late 1940s and 1950s, not the harder, more cynical 1990s.

In some ways that was a relief. It also left him looking a bit out of touch. Watch Steven Berkoff mime a larger lout and his dog, and you instantly know all you need about our yob culture. Watch Marceau mime watching a train go by, and you think how deftly he mimes watching trains go by. Occasionally, the movements were unclear. What on earth were the characters in *The Overcoat* doing as they beavered away under the eye of a

Mephistophelean gent with a tiny beard? Crocheting tapestries or creating illuminated manuscripts? Those ignorant of Gogol's story would have been hard put to guess the truth, which was copying papers, writing letters and doing whatever clerks in 19th-century Russian bureaucracies did. Never mind. Gogol's tale of threadbare Akaki, who works day and night to buy a warm coat, only to lose it to robbers, came complete with screeching winds, bowed black figures, surreal dances involving vast, bear-like garments, and Marceau looking as if he had been drawn by Phiz for a death-scene in Dickens. Those skeletal, trudging legs and pinched, wizened cheeks gave the portrait a pathos it cannot have had in 1951. Age had combined with skill to bring desperation to life.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Zen and the art of moving goalposts

Interrogations  
ICA

The moving finger became accusatory, self-accusatory, sheepish (I'm still talking about a finger), animated, happy and disappointed before allowing itself to sink back, level with the horizon of the hand. Perhaps this sequence is the answer to all the questions he later put to us, and the questions put by pupils in the stories he told: what is the meaning of life?

Zen is the art of moving goalposts. You shoot the ball where you suppose it should

go and score nothing. You wander the pitch, searching for the missing goal, and enlightenment comes when you grasp that there never was one in the first place.

Half an hour passed before the audience ventured answers to the questions they were being asked. Rational or bizarre, all were rejected with

a sad smile. At least he did not slap us with his bamboo sticks, like the revered masters in his stories, though after some particularly banal suggestions a trace of exasperation may have been present in the otherwise disconnected comment: "England is a very peaceful country."

Between the story-telling he suggested answers by way of movement and dance: energy, desperation and a quiet-end. His body is lithe, his sense of balance remarkable and

when the attention wanders (as I must confess mine did) the eye and ear can marvel at Truett's wondrous array of instruments. A metal bowl part filled with water, long booming pipes that sound like bitterns tuning up, and an electric Aeolian harp that appears to be Herz Truett's own invention. A cross between a five-string guitar and a surveyor's rod, it hummed with strange harmonics, otherworldly, like the wind playing on distant stalactites. Music asks no questions, offers no enlightening answers and just is. While the subtle simplicities of Zen can prove too direct to follow, the music takes you there another way.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Limp and ludicrous

Dancing with  
Shadows / Shame  
Lilian Baylis

about reaching for freedom. Lynn smiles, or long stretches at a placid butterfly, while we are blessed with flattery, but otherwise meaningless.

The story of the boy and his daddy, a dancer determined to help his son stand on his own two feet, is symbolically crass and excruciatingly sentimental. Ramming home the point

about reaching for freedom, Lynn smiles, or long stretches at a placid butterfly, while we are blessed with flattery, but otherwise meaningless.

Shame, by Lynn and Ryan Craig, is a two-hour embarrassment depicting Italian family passions, patriarchal muscle-flexing and anti-Semitism under Mussolini. Papa, so hot for his niece that he will jealously betray the Jewish boys he is sheltering, has all the

huggy-wuggy time. Excuse me while I'm sticky-wicky. En suite comes a melodramatic mess of a rock musical. Shame, by Lynn and Ryan Craig, is a two-hour embarrassment depicting Italian family passions, patriarchal muscle-flexing and anti-Semitism under Mussolini. Papa, so hot for his niece that he will jealously betray the Jewish boys he is sheltering, has all the

KATE BASSETT

## LONDON

**JESSIE NORMAN SINGS DENIS.** The great Denis Norman for his annual inspiration concert with the London Symphony Orchestra tonight. She plays Patsy Cuthbert and the orchestra for two of her early works, the Seven Early Songs and *Alban Berg's* *Lyric Suite*. The programme also includes Boulez's own *Les quatre codes* and Berlioz's *The Macabre*. **Barbican, Silk Street, EC2A 3DF** (0171-638 8891). Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. £

**CINDERELLA.** Lindsay Kemp puts his stamp on the fairy tale, adding a "Gothic Opera" - a double bill of two-act operas, everything you expect. Produced in association with the London International Mime Festival. **Barbican, Silk Street, EC2A 3DF** (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Feb 4, 4pm. Unit Feb 4. £

**MOORE MUSIC AROUND TOWN.** Three smaller-scale concerts may also tempt your musical tastes tonight. Trevor Pennock directs the masterly baroque instrument ensemble, The English Concert, for an all-Mozart programme at St John's, while over at the Wigmore, Leslie Howard offers a feast for opera and piano goers with "Les quatre codes" - Boulez's *Les quatre codes* (a double bill of two-act operas, everything you expect). **St John's, Smith Square, SW1** (0171-222 1081). 7.30pm. Wigmore Hall.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kils Anderson

**WIMBORNE STREET, W1** (0171-438 2141). 7.30pm. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800). 7.45pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM.** Mark Elder and the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are joined by the Royal Albert Hall for a suite-to-popular programme of Weber's *Overture*, *The Ruler of the Storm*, Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* for piano, violin and cello and Strauss's *Symphonic Poem*. **Symphonic Hall, Broad Street** (021-212 3333). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. £

**GLASGOW.** Scottish Opera fields a fresh young cast for its new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Directed by David Levine, whose *Turn of the Screw* was one of last season's great successes. With Paul White, Claire Rutledge, Lisa Miles and Stephen O'Connell. **Nicholas McGonagall** conducts. **Thameside Royal, High Street** (0141-332 5000). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

**JOHN WILLIAMS.** Arguably the most popular classical guitarist in the world, also returns to Glasgow tonight. He joins the Royal Scottish National

Orchestra for a programme which includes Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Nigel Westlake's *Andersson*. **Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street** (021 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. Williams appears in Birmingham on Friday. £

**DARTFORD.** Wilson Fowles's *Herzog* Schumann and Balanchine's *Two Concertos* will be the highlights of the Royal Ballet's second Dance Bites tour, opening today. See listings, page 32.

**ORCHESTRA.** Hanne Gardselle (022 220000). Tonight-Thurs, 7.45pm. £

**LEEDS.** Opening night for Sherrin Macdonald's *Leeds*. The *White Horse* set on a beach outside Glasgow, where an assortment of couples, some elderly, some very young, show their colours. **Alfred Thomas** directs. **Phyllis Law, St Thomas, Leeds** (0113 275 1111). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2pm and Feb 4 and 11, 3pm. £

## LONDON GALLERIES

**Barbican, Impressionism in Britain** (0171-438-1414). British Museum, Chinese Arms and Armour (0171-438 1555). National Gallery, The Age of Elegance (0171-533 3211). Royal Academy, Chinese (0171-305 0055). Serpentine, May Day (0171-422 6075). Tate, Works on Paper: Galandor (0171-438 1555). Tate, Works on Paper: Galandor (0171-438 1555). Tate, Works on Paper: Galandor (0171-438 1555).

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London

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## NEW RELEASES

■ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18). Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Out, out-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **THE CLAUDELINE MARRIAGE** (18). Nigel Hawthorne plays the dishevelled Lord Oglethorpe and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about a 19th-century great, snobbish and true love. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **THE DANCE OF DEATH** (18). Strindberg's impassioned, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Grosse characterisation by Gertie Haase and John Hays. **Almeida** (0171-438 8891). **Almeida** (0171-438 8891). **Almeida** (0171-438 8891).

■ **DANGEROUS COMPANY** (18). Keith Barker directs an excellent cast in this Provost's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives as a writer in a prison. **Whitfield** (0171-438 8891). **Whitfield** (0171-438 8891). **Whitfield** (0171-438 8891).

■ **EASTER** (18). Strindberg's drama of a woman, self-pity, personal, day-to-day joy in nature and the freedom of

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol £) on release across the country

■ **JUNIOR** (PG). Jennifer Jones around as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Ernie Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director, John Dahl. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **THE SPECIALIST** (18). Sharon Stone has a surprise guest. Sylvester Stallone to arrange his partner's murder. Director, James Foley. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **LOVE, CHEAT & STEAL** (18). Faded film noir from New Director William Friedkin. With Richard Gere, John Lithgow and Eric Roberts. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG). The King of Hollywood on his own. Director, Tim Burton. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **PULP FICTION** (18). Quentin Tarantino's baroque crime epic, second together from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **LA REINE MARGOT** (18). Biopic, biopic, biopic. Director, Bertrand Tavernier. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **THE TIT DRUM** (18). Victor Sjöström's 1939 adaptation of the Gunga Gunga novel has lost none of its power. With David Niven as the shamed boy in Hitler's Europe. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

■ **WELCOME TO THE TERRORDOME** (18). Cruise, disarming, infatigable version of the future from young British filmmaker Nigel Armstrong. **Barbican** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-438 8891).

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DANCE: Covent Garden performers head for the regions; and a great Romantic ballet fails to catch fire

# Still enough to chew on

Dance Bites, the Royal Ballet's tour of smaller work, is scaled down this year. But it still remains an important showcase, as Debra Craine reports

Now that the Royal Ballet is in the business of recycling a dozen saleable favours for its Covent Garden audiences, anything that provides a forum for new work is seized upon as a showcase for choreographers and a shot in the arm for dancers. So it is a shame that Dance Bites, the company's annual jaunt around the regions, has scaled down its ambitions this year.

As they did in 1994, the three house choreographers — Ashley Page, William Tuckett and Matthew Hart — have work in the 1995 mini-tour, but not all of it is new. And even the new ballets are not quite as impressive as they were when they started life on the drawing board a few months ago.

The original intention was to repeat last year's successful formula: new work supported by one proven box-office draw. But because the tour, which starts tonight in Dartford, was scheduled earlier than the company would have liked, and because of the havoc wreaked on its rehearsal schedule by the cancellation of Michael Clark's piece earlier in the season, there simply was not enough time to do everything that had been planned.

"We wanted everything to look really good," says Anthony Russell Roberts, the Royal Ballet's administrative director. "We wanted performances to be top quality, and the way to achieve that was not to tell the choreographer 'You've got half as much time as you'd like, see what you can do'. We cut our coat according to the time that was available."

"While there was some disappointment — we would have liked to have a completely new programme — the fact is that we have a rattling good programme. There is work by young choreographers, even though some of it is being revisited and reworked. But the whole idea of Dance Bites is alive and well and will develop over the years. It's exactly what we want."

So Page now creates one pas de deux (to music by Brian Eno), instead of four; Hart revises *Solo* (which he dances himself), instead of making a new piece for 15 dancers; Tuckett revises *A Shropshire Lad* and choreographs a solo

to the jazz standard "Lover Man". The programme also features the company premiere of Balanchine's *Duo Concertant*, a work which will move to the Opera House later this season; Ashton's *Thais* pas de deux; and Forsythe's

popular *Herman Schmerman*, a repeat from last year's tour.

In years to come, the Royal Ballet hopes to extend Dance Bites, certainly to three weeks, perhaps more. And a Scottish date is also being contemplated,

along with a London date away from the Opera House. Even some small-scale dance festivals abroad may be included.

"Dance Bites is a fantastic opportunity," says principal dancer Deborah Bull, one of

more than 20 dancers who will visit four centres over the next two weeks. "It's good for dancers to get out and be on all the time, to cope and use a bit of initiative and solve their own problems, rather than being sheltered by this huge umbrella here at the Opera House."

"The great thing about touring is that being on every night means you have no fear of

being on stage. It can be a problem at Covent Garden when performances are so spaced out — it can be weeks between shows for principals. On tour we can try slightly different approaches. We can be a little braver — you don't feel it's the one show, the press is here, my mum is here. And being on every night certainly keeps you in top shape."

● Dance Bites is at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford, Kent (01322 220000) tonight to Thursday; Cambridge Corn Exchange (01223 337851), Saturday; Leicester Haymarket (01533 539797), Jan 30-31; Theatre Royal, Newcastle (0191 2322061), Feb 2-4



Matthew Hart dances *Solo*, which he created himself, in this year's Dance Bites. The Royal Ballet's other two house choreographers — Ashley Page and William Tuckett — also have work on the tour

## Two bright sparks, one damp squib

If Saturday's Royal Ballet revival of *Giselle* proved anything, it was that good dancing alone does not a good performance make. Debra Craine writes. Fine displays of technique and artistry graced both performances, but in each case the sum was less than the total of its parts. Or, more correctly, its partnerships.

Neither the evening team of Leanne Benjamin and Bruce Sansom, nor the matinee pairing of Nicola Roberts and Errol Pickford generated sufficient passion to truly illuminate this greatest of all Romantic ballets.

Benjamin and Sansom are both excellent dancers in their own ways: she darkly dramatic and physically accomplished (although perhaps a shade too strong for *Giselle*); he elegant and intellectually agile. But put them together in a delicately balanced work like this and their individual assets are wasted on each other. Sansom's Count Albrecht was the more successful characterisation, his innocuous boyish charm deliciously spiced with a dash of roguishness. But there was no imbalance of power in his relationship with *Giselle* to spark the subsequent tragedy. His Albrecht was never likely to have got the better of this peasant girl — Benjamin (making her debut as *Giselle*) possessed too much flirtatious artfulness to play the innocent victim convincingly.

The lack of common ground in their partnership was most acute in Act II, where they failed to sustain a palpable romantic intensity, despite the glorious signposts of the choreography. Benjamin and Sansom were emoting all right, but each within their own enclosed universe.

Different problems beset the matinee. Pickford, making his debut as Albrecht, was simply no match for Roberts's superbly realised reading. He had his strengths — an impressive elevation to his jumps, a sly arrogance to his manner — but was unable to flesh out the contradictions in his character.

### Giselle Covent Garden

Roberts, on the other hand, is the perfect Romantic dancer: airy, gracious and credibly tinged with the sadness of her fate. Her *Giselle* was a simple girl, unaware of the seductive allure of her kinsman's adoration and easily awed by the count's smooth compliments. Her solos were radiant with the quality of her dancing: light, playful jumps, exceptional balances, arms that moved with a vibrancy of their own.

Her mad scene was outstanding. The realisation that

Pickford's nobleman had deceived her drove Roberts to a rich language of reaction: from bedraggled to hysterical, from feral to fey. If anything, she was even better in the graveside scene of Act II, making one believe in the transience of her ghostly presence and the tenacity of her love for Albrecht, even after death. It was a performance to treasure.

As always, it was good to welcome back Peter Wright's *Giselle* to Covent Garden. Its clarity and logic are refreshing in this age of fussy production values, and John Macfarlane's gentle designs flatter both the dancers and the ballet's heritage.



Leanne Benjamin and Bruce Sansom: individually talented, they failed to click in their partnership

MUSIC: Happy anniversaries for concert giants; Russian bear has Verdi on the ropes

## Gallic genius

### LSO/Boulez Barbican

AFTER the masterclass came the first concert of the London Symphony Orchestra's seventh birthday celebrations for Pierre Boulez. A reassuringly vast crowd turned out, proof if it were needed that Boulez really is no longer a man standing aloof on the margins. Quality will always out, though it might take a little while. That has certainly been the case with the repertoire he conducted here, a rich mixture of Stravinsky, Webern and Boulez, crowned by Bartók's brutal First Piano Concerto of 1926.

The programme began gently enough, with Stravinsky's glitteringly colourful *Chant du Rossignol* of 1917. Boulez kept it a shade cool, the right thing to do if the implicit narrative is to unfold naturally. But the LSO, on top form throughout the afternoon, enjoyed the music's colours to the full.

However loved the man has become as a conductor, one might expect his own music to have fallen on slightly less sympathetic ears. But that was not the case here. His *Notations I-IV*, reconceived in 1977-78 from the 12 *Notations* for piano of 1945 (the other eight are in Boulez's way of things, still in progress), were greeted with a roar of approval, and rightly so. If more Gallically decorative than Germanically introspective as Webern is, *Notations* is music of equal purity and directness, breathing elegance in its harmonic relationships, proportions, colours and rhetoric, and wonderfully delicately scored; harpists can rarely have had such a good deal in any orchestral work.

After the interval came Webern's *Six Pieces for Orchestra*, Op 6b, anathema to an only slightly earlier generation than our own but welcomed by performers and listeners alike as an old classic. This performance, full of detail, had an overriding sense of naturalness about it, its ebbs and flows and nervous explosions and pulsating motor-rhythms emanating from the rhythms of our common psychological experience. Boulez, clinical in action but never

in interpretation, made the most of each of these concentrated nuggets of expression, extracting maximum colour, balancing every element with utmost care and efficiency of physical gesture.

Finally Daniel Barenboim came on to play the Bartók concerto, the most percussive of the three, which he did with a formidable pugnacity, hard-edged and brittle rather than brilliant. I thought that even this team would not last the pace in the finale, into which conductor and pianist threw themselves with abandon. That, of course, was just the sensation they, not to mention the composer, intended.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## Strings that sing of a tortured soul

### Borodin Quartet Wigmore Hall

WITH so many professional musicians present, the audience alone could have made quite an impressive musical offering on the occasion of the Borodin Quartet's 50th birthday. But, with Yuri Bashmet



Shostakovich: studied and played to perfection

and Mikhail Milman joining it for an introductory Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence*, the Borodin was determined to sing for its supper. Indeed, the Wigmore Hall concerts are only the beginning of a year of European touring.

Only Valentin Berlinsky, the cellist, has been with the group since its inception; Dmitri Shebalin, viola player and son of one of Shostakovich's closest musical friends, joined in 1953. Both players suspended public operations for two years to re-study repertoire with their new violinists, Andrei Abramov and Mikhail Kopelman, who joined in 1974 and 1976.

Their cycle of the Shostakovich quartets at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in March 1986 is still talked about with awe and affection. Two moments from it were re-created in Sunday's first of three anniversary concerts, in the Borodin's performances of the Seventh and Eighth Quartets.

Many musicians agonise about the interpretative stance to take in music whose every moment of self-revelation seems questioned by ambivalence and irony. The Borodin's understanding of Shostakovich takes it straight to the heart of the matter. The Seventh Quartet, terse and muted, was played in an anguished undertone, disturbed only by the dry, hard light of its opening and the abrasive irritations of the final fugue. Here, it seemed, was the very essence of the composer. In the Eighth, the pattern of allusions — to the composer's own tortured identity and to significant moments in his own works — was drawn in searing articulation, an acute sensitivity to harmonic change, and a singing which seemed more eloquent than the human voice itself.

The length and concentration of the final resolution left the audience audibly gasping.

LOUISE GRAY

HILARY FINCH

## Moor like macho

### Otello Covent Garden

Moshinsky's production, now revived under the guiding hand of Richard Gregson, allows Otello to sing much of his music close to the front of the stage, and Bogachov made the most of it.

The final "Nim mi tema" summed up the performance. The opening words were flung out into the house with full command, but then Bogachov resorted to much *parlando* as he crawled across the stage to Desdemona's body. The lighting Moor is there, but the hero of Venice is not. It is a mystery

how so simple a man ever became governor of Cyprus.

But then it is an even greater mystery how a soldier so obviously competent as Iago could have been overlooked for promotion. By being not much liked, perhaps, Sergei Leiferkus never overdoes the villainy, but with an arid mixture of snarl and slime in the voice makes his very complete Iago the performance of the evening.

There is much, too, to admire in Prokina's doting Desdemona, especially the deep throbs of remorse in Act II at the thought that she might have offended her lord. She held back a bit in the Act III finale until Carlo Rizzi in the pit at last got the chorus going. The Willow Song drew an exquisite performance from both soprano and conductor.

Among the home team, Paul Charles Clarke was an impressive playboy of a Cassio, but the Emilia was poor and indistinct.

JOHN HIGGINS

'The audience lapped up every vibrant moment'

'Pure gold entertainment'

## Venetian Twos

BY CARLO GOLDONI  
IN A NEW VERSION BY RAUZY BOLT



ROCK: Smiths-inspired grunge blows away the headliners as tomorrow's heroes strut into the spotlight

## Marion better than Salt as a cure for itchy feet

### Vernca Salt et al Astoria II, WI

There were some recognisable historical repetitions. The 60ft Dolls, actually three young men of moderate height, were not dissimilar to an early Jam in form and content. But if the metal thrashing of Skunk Nansie's over-cranked guitars recalled Mötörhead, their shaven-headed black vocalist, Skin, had an idiosyncratic quality of his own.

The band relies heavily on the charisma of this slender giantess and her confrontational songs. "Intellectualise

My Blackness" and "Little Baby Swastika" are typical, their energy unmistakable. Vernca Salt, the headliners whose debut album, *American Thighs*, established the quartet as a skilled songwriting unit in the pop (raucous) division, were the biggest draw of the night, filling the theatre with a word-perfect crowd.

Sharing vocals and guitar duties, Louise Post and Nina Gordon pumped out a powerful, monolithic sound, underpinned by bassist Steve Lack and drummer Jim Shapiro.

Salt nevertheless lacked a certain geography. Excellent songs — "Get Back", "Seether" and "25" — got lost in a sonic maelstrom, leaving the previous contenders, Marion, as the evening's clearest successes.

Like Gene, Manchester's Marion follow a current trend for ambiguous names. Led by

19-year-old vocalist Jaime Harding, Marion combine a Smiths-inspired lyricism with substantial instrumental panache.

Guitarists Phil Cunningham and Anthony Grantham delivered dynamic harmonies, while a rhythm section driven by bassist Julian Phillips and drummer Murad Mousa provided an invigoratingly speedy pace.

Harding is already a compelling performer and songs like "Time" and "The Only Way" augur well. Future bands hoping to follow in the footsteps of Marion and Gene on the road to rock'n'roll success may care to note that the names Evelyn and Shirley are not yet taken.

WHEN the *New Musical Express* Brat prizes are awarded tonight to a clutch of eager young bands, the recipients will be looking forward to a larger slice of the limelight. The success of the likes of Suede and Elastica, previous winners of the Brats (a cheeky tilt at the music industry's more sedate *Brits* Awards), will give them even more hope for the future.

The defining characteristic of the four bands that ended the latest series of *NME* On nights — 60ft Dolls, Skunk Nansie, Marion and Chicago's Vernca Salt — is guitar-generated grunge. Heavy metal, punk and, in Marion's case, the Morrissey factor, have also seeped into the mix which, although uneven, was mostly arresting.



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A flood of new instructions in January 1995 is further confirmation that the legal recruitment market is becoming significantly more active. The eight jobs above represent a cross-section of recent instructions. For more detail on these jobs, or career advice generally, please contact Andrew Russell, Lisa Hicks or Miranda Smyth on 071-377 0510 (071-422 6213 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174. Internet e-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

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## LAW

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# Rising cost of harassment

A recent payout  
to a secretary  
should alert law  
firms, reports  
Frances Gibb

Lawyers have become victims of the latest growth area in the courts — sexual harassment — and find themselves paying an increasingly high price for insensitive behaviour.

In what is thought to be the biggest British award of its kind involving a law firm, Clyde & Co has paid £20,000 in an out-of-court settlement to a marketing manager who claimed she was forced to leave after being sexually harassed by a male partner in the wake of an affair.

At the same time, a barrister has been found guilty of professional misconduct by the Bar's disciplinary tribunal for sexually harassing two women — a client and a solicitor's clerk. His identity is being preserved during the period of appeal.

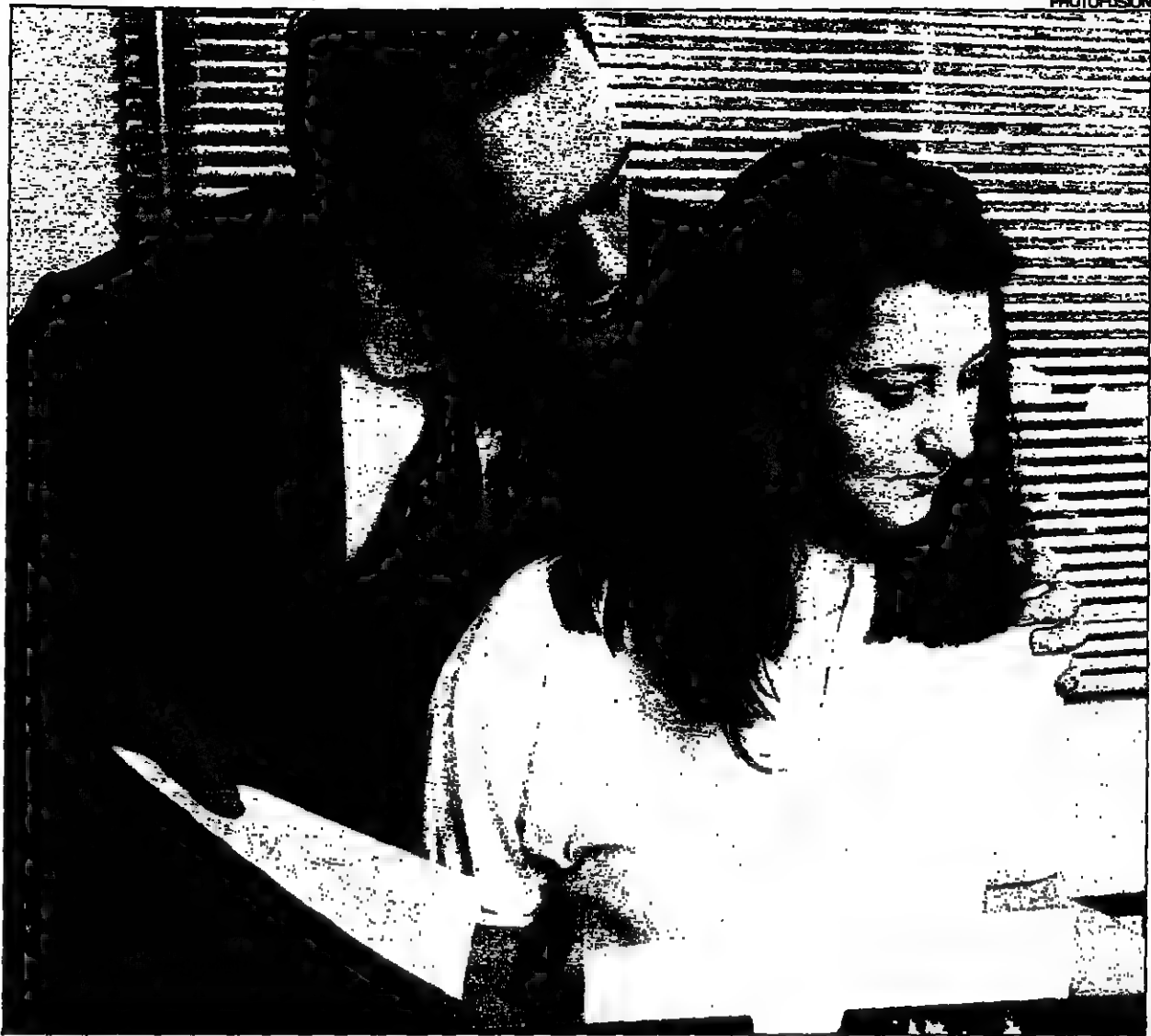
The cases are the latest to have surfaced within the profession, whose members were in a distinctly more sober mood at some of the recent Christmas festivities. Margaret McCabe, barrister and organiser of a conference on women lawyers (see page 37) to be held on April 8, says: "When I started at the Bar, sexual harassment as a term didn't exist. If someone made a remark or a pass, you just told them where to go or put up with it. Now people are starting to do something."

Next month, a report from Sheffield University will show high levels of sexual harassment at the Bar: 40 per cent of female Bar pupils and women in their first years say they have experienced harassment.

What has made the difference, say employment lawyers, is growing awareness of what amounts to sexual harassment, coupled with the lifting of the £11,000 ceiling on the compensation that can be paid for sex discrimination claims, which includes sexual harassment. Since last November, industrial tribunals have had power to award unlimited awards and the average in sex-discrimination cases has risen to £21,000.

People suffering harassment are increasingly resorting to tribunals, often because their complaints are not taken seriously in-house.

Julie-Anne Wildman accepted compensation from Clyde & Co after she lodged a tribunal claim that a senior litigation partner, started an "intense campaign of sexual harassment" when she tried to end their affair. In papers filed in support of her claim, she said that when she complained to



A man might not see this as harassment but it could land his employer in trouble. In-house training is one solution

other partners, they failed to intervene. As a result, she left her £37,000-a-year marketing manager job in January 1994. The firm and the partner both strongly denied sexual discrimination.

Baker & McKenzie is still reeling from the record award this year of £4.5 million to a secretary in the firm in America, after indiscretions by one of the partners. The award was made to Rena Weeks, who claimed that Martin Greenstein reached from behind to put chocolates in the pockets of her blouse and, pulling back her arms, commented on her breasts.

Though that award, now subject to appeal, was made in California, and included punitive damages which cannot be awarded here, the impact was felt in British law firms. At an estimated cost of £100,000, Baker & McKenzie's London branch launched a training programme for all staff in sexual harassment. Fraser Younson who is running the programme for each of the firm's 350 staff — from partners to clerks — says: "We are trying to get over the message that what might be a joke to one person might be highly offensive to another."

Sexual harassment, he says,

is any "unwanted or unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature" and that can be manifested in many ways. "It doesn't have to be someone in authority harassing a junior staff member; it can be someone of the same level, by a man to a woman or vice versa — it can be by anyone, anywhere and in a variety of ways."

Mr Younson, who runs similar training for the firm's own clients, claims: "Every firm has been in a situation where a client has been too familiar with a female lawyer."

All staff attend group sessions, where they examine hypothetical cases and are asked to say whether or not the behaviour involved was appropriate. "For the first time," he says, "you might have a junior person saying to someone senior that certain behaviour is unacceptable. There is no right answer; it's about giving the right messages. If you ask someone for lunch, make clear they know why."

The training also involves instruction on how to avoid and tackle harassment. Mr Younson says: "We want to create a friendly, professional working environment where individuals' integrity is respected, not some sort of political correctness. There is nothing wrong with people

having lunch together, provided they don't step over a certain line. And if someone says 'no,' that answer should be accepted."

Baker & McKenzie's steps have not been widely followed. But the need for all firms, legal and otherwise, to act is acute. The Equal Opportunities Commission confirms that numbers of claims are rising, fuelled partly by publicity given to large awards. A recent Industrial Society survey of more than 1,700 employers showed that more than half working women suffer what they see as sexual harassment.

But law firms so far are doing little about it, even though the Baker & McKenzie case was not the first.

After a Christmas party held by the City law firm Nabarro Nathanson at which a partner was said to have eaten a 7in chocolate penis covered with cream, Donna Van Den Berghen, a secretary, claimed her boss touched her breasts and gave her a bear hug. She was awarded £4,700 in compensation and damage for injury to feelings.

A survey by *Legal Business* magazine found that law firms either had no policy or included anti-sexual harassment statements only in their staff

manuals. Training was non-existent. The magazine commented that such "inaction reeks of complacency".

Yet more employees are making sexual harassment claims. Gill Howard, an employment lawyer says: "Women are bringing these claims because they have confidence in the law and in the levels of damages likely to be awarded. But it is not because of the damages that they bring the claims: they are more aware that what is being done to them is unlawful; they are more confident about seeing a lawyer. If there has been sexual harassment, they expect some redress."

**Legal stickup**  
FLYPOSTING need no longer be a nefarious night-time activity. Leeds City Council claims to be the first city council to make it legal. It has entered into an agreement with a consortium of poster-sticking operators who will pay for special poster boards at £500 each.

**Prize headline**  
THE Inns & Outs January prize for the dullest press release headline goes to Addleshaw Sons & Latham for: "Manchester Solicitor is joint author of new book". To be more informative the lawyer is Jonathan Davey and the book is *Guide to the Commercial Agents' Regulations*, which he has co-

authored with Fergus Randolph, a barrister with Brick Court Chambers.

**Garden plot**  
IF YOUR local environment health inspectorate objects to your wish to bury your dead spouse in your back garden, fight on.

The Local Government Ombudsman has ruled that Wolverhampton council's decision not to allow a woman to bury her husband in the garden, on unspecified health grounds, was unreasonable.

**Service award**  
A RARE award of the Member of the Victorian Order was made in the recent honours to a legal secretary. Pauline Moore was chief secretary to Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's solicitor, until he retired last month. Ms Moore, 58, worked for Sir Matthew for 29 years. One solicitor commented: "All of us who know her are delighted."

Miss Moore, who is still with Farrers, said: "I was very honoured."

SCRIVENER

## Don't put the law into public hands

Leave legal wording alone, says Francis Bennion

A prime cause of the horrendous cost of legal advice and litigation, now under investigation by Lord Woolf, is the obscurity of the law. There have been recent complaints about this from, among others, the National Consumer Council and the Law Commission. But what is meant by "the obscurity of the law"?

In its recent pamphlet "The Cost of Justice", the National Consumer Council says that if government departments and the National Audit Office find it difficult to interpret legislation, what chance has the man in the street? My answer, which many people will dislike, is that the man, or woman, in the street should not attempt to interpret legislation. I refer, of course, to legislation still in the form in which it was enacted. What the lay person needs is explanations and summaries.

The Law Commission, in a recent paper on reforms in *Judicial Review*, says it wants to get rid of Latin terms such as *certiorari*. Jack Beeson, a former Law Commissioner, complains that law students cannot pronounce this word. My answer is that, as their predecessors had to, they should learn to pronounce it. In a letter to *The Times* (November 1), Dr M.J. Peeling objects to replacing concise Latin terms, whose meanings are not hard to learn, with less elegant English terminology.

Another would-be reformer who believes our law should be expressed in plain English is Martin Cuts. The Plain Language Commission has just published Mr Cuts's *Lucid Law*, a report with a foreword by no less than Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls. The press release says it proves that abolition of "statutory gobbledegook" would save millions in legal fees. So does Lord Woolf have his answer? Again, I think not.

Mr Cuts says his report meets a 1987 challenge by Sir Henry de Waal, then head of what Mr Cuts, using plain English, calls the Government's law-writing office. Its official name is the Parliamentary Counsel Office (it was once a member of it). The challenge was to put a statute into plainer language without losing significant meaning.

Mr Cuts chose to operate on the *Timeshare Act 1992*, and claims to have vanquished Sir Henry. The Act's draftsman, Euan Sutherland, thinks otherwise (see *Statute Law Review*, winter, 1993). Sir Thomas Bingham seems to be on the side of Mr Cuts. However, a close analysis of his foreword shows that with commendable judicial impartiality he has refrained from committing himself one way or the other.

The greatly respected Law Lord, Lord Reid,

said technicalities and jargon are all very well as a system of shorthand among lawyers, but "if you cannot explain your result in simple English there is probably something wrong with it." Lord Reid was too acute a lawyer to mean this. He was addressing the law teachers and, I suspect, pulling their legs.

As a would-be reformer myself, I believe that the biggest stumbling block is communicating the law to lawyers. Unless they are clear about the nature and characteristics of legislative texts there is not much chance that anyone else will be. So reformers like Mr Cuts need to start by accepting that law is an expertise.

In legal texts, unexplained terms of art and references (express or implied) to legal rules, doctrines and sources are essential. Not one of these can be fully understood by non-experts in law, any more than medical language can be fully understood by non-experts in medicine.

True, the desired effect can sometimes be achieved without use of special language. But it takes a lawyer to know whether simple words in what should be a technical text really carry their apparent simple meaning. This brings us to the conclusive argument against Mr Cuts, and anyone else who would have the citizen consult raw legislation. It may be positively dangerous to encourage non-lawyers to think they can understand legal texts unaided by expert advice.

So my advice to Lord Woolf is this. Do not look for savings by trying to make the law easier for lay persons to understand. Instead, make it easier for lawyers to use. Plain English and reducing jargon have only a small part to play in this. Much more important is improving the arrangement of the law (more consolidation and codification), the methods of finding it and discovering whether it has been brought into force or has ceased to be in force, the techniques of interpretation, and the system of transitional provisions. And we need to move quickly towards integrating our law with that of the European Union, and rationalising and combining the interpretative principles applying to each.

None of the above detracts from the need to simplify legal documents, such as forms and explanatory leaflets, which are intended to be read by members of the public. There is plenty that needs to be tackled. All that well-meaning interveners like Martin Cuts do is to distract attention from the real problems and let the Government off the hook.

● The author is an Oxford don and a former parliamentary counsel.



Woolf investigation

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## New York alert

THE NEW York legal world is full of stories based on speculation that the Princess of Wales may move to New York. Rumours are also rife that the Prince of Wales has retained Howard Weitzman, Michael Jackson's lawyer, in case a custody battle ensues over the future heir to the throne.

The Princess is said to have been advised that an American court would be unlikely to grant custody to an adulterous husband. The *New York Post* says: "These are just rumours. But when you are talking about Charles and Di and their whacky world, almost anything can be true."

## Charities beware

CHARITIES have again been given a warning by Scotland Yard and the Charity Commission to be on the lookout for bogus firms of Nigerian solicitors.

The forces purport to be from lawyers who are admin-

istering estates where substantial sums have been left to charity. The catch comes in the form of a request for the several thousand pounds of "Nigerian taxes" which must be paid first.

The Children's Society, Save The Children and Friends of the Earth have all been approached. The same con trick was tried out on a number of charities last year.

## Liability shifts

THE Court of Appeal's decision not to allow leave to appeal in the case of *Crown Estate Commissioners v John Mowlem & Co Ltd*, is causing many an architect concern.

The case concerned the interpretation of standard building contract JCT 80. The effect of the court's decision is to shift liability for materials and workmanship from the contractor to the consultant who signs the final certificate — usually the architect.

Those who fear that claims

brought in the light of the case will push insurance premiums to uneconomic levels have asked for an urgent redraft of the critical clause.

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Peter Goldsmith, QC: another lawyer describes him as "superb, absolutely tenacious — the sort who fights every corner"

## Mr Megawatt Brain

Frances Gibb reports on the new, and youngest, chairman of the Bar Council

He's clever — a "megawatt brain", says one solicitor — and relatively young. Not much else is widely known about Peter Goldsmith, QC, this year's Bar chairman and at 44, the youngest holder of the post. But this Saturday, he takes the chair at the Bar Council meeting for the first time since being elected and explains his policies for 1995.

A series of measures has already been trailed: a new training scheme for chambers in management and client care (already launched), a Bar complaints system under which dissatisfied clients can obtain compensation, a scheme to validate universities to provide the Bar's one-year vocational training course, ending the monopoly of the Bar law school, and a pupillage clearing scheme, centralising applications from would-be barristers seeking a place in chambers.

All these stem from last year's fundamental review of the Bar set up by the former chairman, Robert Seabrook, QC, under Lord Alexander of Weedon, now it is Mr Goldsmith's responsibility to see that they materialise.

He sees his task as making the

Bar more "modern, efficient, effective and competitive — crucial, if it is to survive". The heat is on from his rank and file as its members face tough competition in the criminal courts in the fight for work with solicitors. It is not Mr Goldsmith's own patch. He comes from the commercial Bar, where he is seen as one of the top and best-paid silks around. Julian Wilson, a litigation partner at Herbert Smith, says: "As a lawyer he is superb, absolutely tenacious — the sort who fights every corner for his client."

But if he is not from the ranks of the criminal Bar, Mr Goldsmith does not have the archetypal Bar background, either. He was brought up in the North, where he went to Quarry Bank High School in Liverpool, a decade after the Beatles, and went on to Cambridge where he took a double first in law, then took a master's degree at University College London, winning the Birkenhead Scholarship to Gray's Inn. Then he followed his brother to the Bar, coming first in

his Bar finals in 1972. He was drawn into Bar Council politics in 1991, in a very short time becoming one of its chief policymakers. A hard-line conservative on trade-union issues, Mr Goldsmith fiercely opposes allowing the public to approach barristers direct without going through a solicitor, and he gets fired up on the current topic of the legal-aid fees structure for barristers and solicitors, arguing that the Bar is disadvantaged.

Mr Goldsmith wants the "playing field levelled", so that both groups are paid the same rates. He rejects the view that solicitors' overheads require them to be paid higher rates. "Why should the taxpayer have to pay more for somebody doing a job," he says, "if they can get someone else to do it at a lower price?" He also cares about new entrants. He chaired a 1993 report on the future of young barristers and is acutely aware of the need to sort

out the free-for-all scramble for places to train at the Bar and obtain pupillages, a system he describes as wasteful and inefficient.

His strength is intellectual rigour rather than communication; he is best known for his role in the landmark House of Lords case on auditors' liability, *Caparo v. Dickman*, where he represented the successful accountants. One lawyer says: "His style is not particularly friendly, and he flourishes best as an individual rather than a team player."

On the Bar Council, a colleague described him as "a policy wonk, consciously looking at every nook and cranny of policy. Away from work, Mr Goldsmith enjoys playing the piano, particularly jazz, and tennis and skiing. He and his wife of 20 years live in St John's Wood, central London, and have three sons and a daughter.

Mr Goldsmith's year will be one of consolidation. He wants the Bar to retain and build on its traditional role as a referral profession. But his view of the profession is one of a businessman: the Bar, he says, must improve the way it markets itself, communicate with clients and "delivers its services".

A single mother has organised a seminar on women in the law

## Why do men still get the work?

★ Margaret McCabe whether there is discrimination at the Bar and she is unequivocal. "It is a huge problem," she says. "Discrimination is largely institutional, a habit that comes from school, from university and then from the Bar itself. There are many barristers, perhaps the majority, who think that everything the Bar is now doing to promote equal opportunities is a load of garbage. They say: 'We don't need all this equality stuff; it's nonsense.'"

But women barristers, she firmly believes, do face greater difficulties than men. She should know. Now 39 and senior in her field of general civil and commercial law, she is a relative rarity at the Bar — a working mother and a single parent. "Until I had a child, I was paying all the bills myself. I didn't realise just how hard it was. The Bar, for instance, is not geared to women taking maternity leave, although there is now a code of practice for chambers on this. I took three weeks off, but most women in chambers cannot take much longer because we are self-employed and other members of the set can be resentful if you do."

Securing the best briefs, particularly at the commercial bar, is also still a problem. "Women don't get the best commercial work. Clients will always say that it's the preference of the client, but sometimes it's the clerks themselves. 'Without



Margaret McCabe: "Until I had a child, I didn't realise how hard it is"

Prejudice", the recent survey on women at the Bar, found that the good, talented women do get on — they always have — but at a slower rate than comparable men, and I think that is true. Many women give up once they have a family and don't come back."

That is changing. More women are looking at the Bar as a long-term career. The Bar and the Law Society have drawn up equal opportunities codes for chambers and law firms, and the Bar Council now has its own equality officers. But there is a wide gulf, she says — shown most clearly in the recent Bar meeting over the failure of three Inns of Court to adopt the full anti-discrimination code — between those who believe action is needed and those who decry it.

To try to bridge that gap, she struck on the idea of a one-day conference on women lawyers and the way forward. "What really needed to be aired were the disadvantages that women face at cer-

tain key stages in their careers and whether or not the playing field can be levelled."

The idea instantly ignited. Both the Bar and Law Society were keen to help to organise what will be the first conference of its kind. The star-studded list of speakers will include Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice; Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mrs Justice Arden and Baroness Mallett, QC.

The challenge for the next five years, and this is what she hopes will emerge from the conference, is to get over the message that measures are needed. Equally important, she says, is the need not to be so over-zealous that discrimination is imagined where it is not there. "I feel quite strongly that one should not see discrimination where it doesn't exist; that is as bad as people who discriminate," she says. "And it damages the cause."

FRANCES GIBB

### THE WOMAN LAWYER: BENEFIT OR BURDEN?

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The morning session will open with a debate on sex discrimination laws, followed by a keynote address by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. The afternoon will be split into sessions on Women at the Bar, Women Solicitors and A Changing Direction, each with a top speaker.

The conference will end with an open session

moderated by Lord Justice Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice. Panelists include Barbara Mills, QC, Mrs Justice Hale, Kamlesh Bahl, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission; Henry Hodge, deputy vice-president of the Law Society; Peter Goldsmith, QC, the Bar chairman, and Cherie Booth.

The cost, including lunch and evening reception hosted by Mercury and Allied Dunbar, is £95 (plus VAT) if booked before February 17, and £125 (plus VAT) if booked afterwards. A limited number of student places are available at £65 (plus VAT). The conference also devotes two hours towards continuing professional development.

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**BY RUSSELL KEMPSON**

Yeboah has led the goal-scoring in the Bundesliga for the past two seasons but has not played since the German league's mid-season break in November after falling out of favour with Jupp Heynkes, the Frankfurt manager. Yet Wilkinson, who has seen Yeboah play only on tele-

ent are believed to be £500,000 in debt and losing more than £10,000 a week.

□ The Bell's Scottish League premier division match between Partick Thistle and Dundee United, due to have been played tonight, has been postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.



**BY OUR SPORTS STAFF**

Senac launched his furious assault on the Polish player, Piotr Swierczewski, early in the second half. The incident was captured by television cameras but was apparently not seen by the officials as a general brawl was taking place at the time. Senac was not even spoken

astonished no other players were sent off," Jacques Riola, the disciplinary committee chairman, said yesterday.

Swierczewski was left nursing a broken nose, while Zidane suffered a partial loss of memory after the match and sported a large bruise. Yesterday, he was wearing a

in nine matches, was also good news for Parma, who consolidated second position with a 2-0 home win over Napoli, and Lazio, who stay third after a 1-0 away win over the bottom club, Brescia. Juventus can re-establish a three-point lead tomorrow, when they meet Torino in a

of sport". Haraigue, 58, died after being shot several times as he sat behind the wheel of his car on Saturday. Islamic militants are suspected. Haraigue was the latest in a number of high-ranking sports officials to be assassinated during a three-year civil war in Algeria.

**HOCKEY:** Tim Morrison, a full back from Old Loughboroughians, has been called into the England party for the Indira Gandhi tournament in Delhi early next month as a replacement for Andy Humphrey, of Hull, who is serving a 60-day suspension after being sent off in the National League match against Slough on Sunday. Humphrey was the third England international this season to be shown a red card.

[illegible]







# Australia pitch in second leg spinner against ailing touring team

## England get little relief from call to spin doctors

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN BENDIGO

ENGLAND'S preoccupation with an unmanageable injury list not only condemned their match against Victoria to an unsatisfactory draw here yesterday, but also restricted the scope of their plans for the fourth Test match, which starts on Thursday. How they must envy Australia, who yesterday were able to change their team through causes of form and tactics, rather than the compulsions of fitness.

Michael Bevan and Tim May have been dropped from the Australia 12 for Adelaide. Their replacements, Greg Blewett and Peter McIntyre, will both be making Test debuts on their home ground and McIntyre will be a second leg spinner in the side.

England have no such luxury of choice. Indeed, Michael Atherton, the captain, last night mused on the possibility that a player who is strictly unfit, such as Neil Fair-

Nobody who has witnessed the prolonged ravaging of this team could deem that irresponsible.

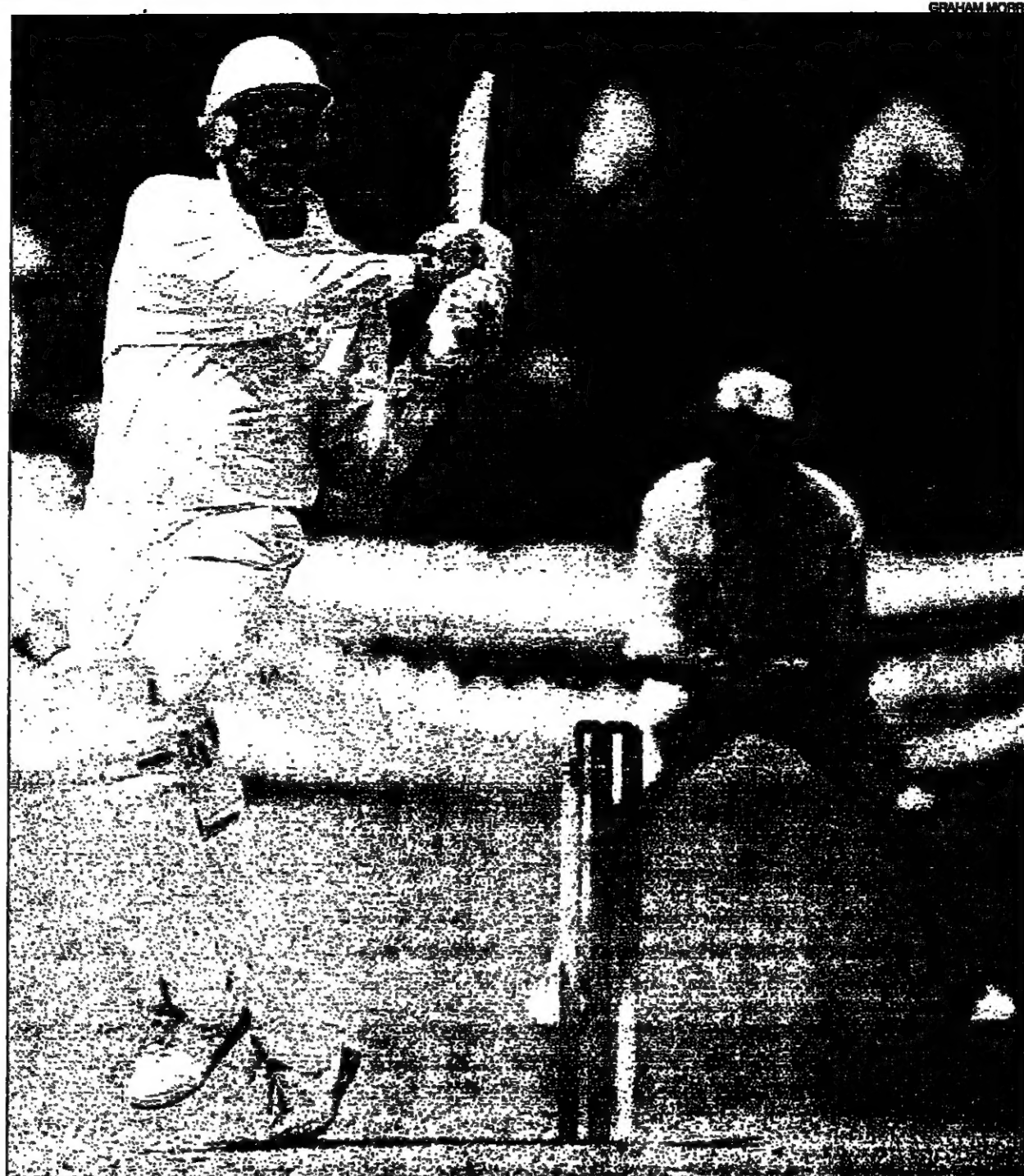
Much the liveliest talking-point of another sun-filled day was the Australian team selection. Neither of the discards can feel greatly aggrieved, Bevan having totalled 81 runs in six innings and May having taken only one wicket in the series, but the Australians' stated policy has been to identify players and remain loyal to them, so the changes still caused a jolt of surprise.

Blewett, 23, is an extravagant queue-jumper for Bevan's batting place. Two weeks ago, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn and Ricky Ponting were all appreciably ahead of him. But the combination of his arresting strokeplay in the World Series Cup games for Australia A and his ability to bowl the back-up seamers that Steve Waugh at present cannot have earned Blewett a cap and, in all probability, a tour to West Indies.

The choice of McIntyre, 28, is more pertinent to the match at hand. Provided that he plays ahead of a third specialist seam bowler, which is probable, he will form with Shane Warne the type of wrist-spin pairing that England have not faced for many years and will not relish this week. McIntyre and Blewett room together when South Australia go on the road; that they should now win promotion together is one of those romantic coincidences this game throws up.

It may not be too long before a batsman much younger even than Blewett is pressing for Test honours. England already knew something of Brad Hodge, for he had treated their bowling insultingly in making 96 not out for the Australian Academy last month. Yesterday, after a lean run in the Sheffield Shield, he resurfaced with 104.

Hodge, 19, is a strong and resourceful right-hander who loves to cut and pull when the ball is dropped short and



Gooch pulls Cook, the Victoria fast bowler, to the boundary but England settled for a draw in Bendigo

sweeps spin expertly. Phillip Tufnell, who had bowled admirably on Sunday, could not contain him yesterday and Hodge reached his century, of which the last 37 runs came in 50 minutes, with two consecutive cuts for four. It was a shame, but a mark of Atherton's unbending principles, that only Graham Gooch found it in him to applaud when Hodge left the field.

The new ball removed both Hodge and his partner in a 114-run stand for the sixth wicket, David Emerson. But, just as he had done in the Victoria first innings, England lost momentum against the tail and Paul Reiffel was able to take his batting time in the match to 200 minutes before Jones declared, ten minutes after lunch.

It was a fair target to set if

one disregarded all of England's handicaps. It remained an achievable target while Gooch and Atherton were making solid progress against the new ball, but once they became beleaguered, each side of the tea interval, the chase was plainly abandoned. Gooch was the one man out but he had batted with more mobility and conviction than for some weeks.

Jones did not exactly encourage adventure, simply rotating his four seam bowlers until the last hour had begun and the game was dead, but the truth of it was that the Victorians bowled too well for England to escape the leash.

The crowd in this friendly town, contributing to a 20,000 turnout over four days, suffered in silence, enjoying a final day of their curiously

contrived ground where the grandstand is flanked by two brightly coloured fairground ticket booths and the mobile toilets, similarly gaudy, rejoice in the label of "Dragable Dunny". The local cricket association was even moved to make a presentation to the Barry Army—or, at least, the good guys who disown the trouble-making hangers-on.

England have enjoyed their time in Bendigo, though doubtless not the consequences of it. Stewart is now purely a passenger. Hick's back condition is an increasing concern and the captain's own, long-term spinal problems were troubling him once more yesterday. A headcount on match-day morning will, as is now customary, be England's concession to Test selection.

**VICTORIA: First Innings 248**

Second Innings

R P Larkin c Atherton b Deffenha	27
152 D J Jones c Rhodes b Deffenha	73
101 B J Hodge c Rhodes b Deffenha	104
101 D J Jones c Rhodes b Deffenha	104
101 D J Jones c Rhodes b Deffenha	104
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## Vaughan returns to form

MICHAEL VAUGHAN may have hung on to his place for the second England A five-day international match against India A after scoring 87 against the Combined Universities in Delhi yesterday. Vaughan's highest score of the tour came after David Hemp, his rival for a place in the match at Calcutta later this week, was out first ball.

England declared at 214 for

five in their second innings, having opted not to enforce the follow-on after polishing off the Combined Universities first innings early in the day.

Keith Piper and Min Patel, who made 48 and 56 respectively, took advantage of being pushed up the order as the England management gave them the chance of some lengthy batting practice. Vaughan was caught at slip

after hitting a six and 11 fours in a stay of 116 balls.

The declaration, on the stroke of tea, set the Universities an imposing 603 to win. More realistically, it gave the A team hope of a huge victory margin. But the students showed more stomach for a fight second time around and, by the close of the third day, they had reached 96 for two.

Glen Chapple, celebrating his 21st birthday, struck with the new ball but England's only other success in the final session came when Ian Salisbury defeated Vassant Kumar, the opening batsman, with a perfectly pitched googly. Hemp had cut a sad figure after being leg-before to the first ball of the England A second innings. The Glamorgan left-hander made only 28 in the first innings and, against second-rate student opposition, that may not be good enough, especially with Vaughan returning to form.

The 20-year-old Yorkshire opener's place was under threat after he scored just one and two in the first international in Bangalore last week.

## De Villiers completes rout

SOUTH AFRICA needed only half an hour to complete a 324-run victory over Pakistan on the final morning of their inaugural Test match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

Pakistan, 149 for seven overnight, were bowled out for 165, with Fanie de Villiers taking four for 27. De Villiers, the man of the match, finished with his best Test match analysis, ten for 108. He thus became the first South African to take ten wickets and score a half-century in Test cricket.

South Africa surpassed their previous largest victory margin in Test matches at home, the 323-run win over Australia at St George's Park, Port Elizabeth, in 1970. Their biggest winning margin is 356 runs, achieved in the defeat of England at Lord's last year.

Pakistan's hopes of staging any resistance rested on Inzamam-ul-Haq, who had batted with style on Sunday for his unbeaten 86. Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, looked to his new ball pair of De Villiers and Allan Donald to wrap up the innings, and they did not disappoint.

After Donald had accounted for Kabir Khan in his second over of the day, De Villiers removed Inzamam, who edged behind, in the next. It was one of four catches in the innings for Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper. Inzamam had batted for 44 hours, faced 179 deliveries and struck six fours in his 95.

Fittingly, it fell to De Villiers to seal victory in his next over, when Aqib Javed drove loosely and was taken at the wicket without scoring. South Africa have recalled Andrew Hudson, the opening batsman, for the forthcoming tour of New Zealand. Hudson was dropped for the final match of the three-match series against New Zealand. He replaces John Commins, who sustained a groin strain in the victory over Pakistan yesterday. South Africa are due to arrive in New Zealand on February 10 and will play a one-off Test and a quadrangular one-day tournament, which also includes Australia and India.

**JOHANNESBURG SCOREBOARD**

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 480 (8 M Letcher 112, P S de Villiers 66 not out, G Kerdan 62)

Second Innings 259 for 7 dec (D J Cullinan 89 not out)

PAKISTAN: First Innings 165 (Salim Malik 99, P S de Villiers 6 for 81)

Second Innings 165 (Salim Malik 99, P S de Villiers 6 for 81)

## DELHI SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND A XI: First Innings 553 (M R Ramprakash 124, J E R Graham 100, P N Hedley 52, A P Wade 51)

Second Innings

D L Hemp b W Tandon	0
M P Vaughan c Pathak b Bak	87
M J Poot c Pathak b Bak	48
M P Poot c Pathak b Bak	48
G Chapple c Mewada b Pathak	16
I D Salisbury not out	4
Extras (lb 1, nb 3)	4
Total (21 wickets)	214

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0-28, 2-197, 3-210, 4-214, 5-241, 6-241, 7-241, 8-241, 9-241, 10-241, 11-241, 12-241, 13-241, 14-241, 15-241, 16-241, 17-241, 18-241, 19-241, 20-241, 21-241, 22-241, 23-241, 24-241, 25-241, 26-241, 27-241, 28-241, 29-241, 30-241, 31-241, 32-241, 33-241, 34-241, 35-241, 36-241, 37-241, 38-241, 39-241, 40-241, 41-241, 42-241, 43-241, 44-241, 45-241, 46-241, 47-241, 48-241, 49-241, 50-241, 51-241, 52-241, 53-241, 54-241, 55-241, 56-241, 57-241, 58-241, 59-241, 60-241, 61-241, 62-241, 63-241, 64-241, 65-241, 66-241, 67-241, 68-241, 69-241, 70-241, 71-241, 72-241, 73-241, 74-241, 75-241, 76-241, 77-241, 78-241, 79-241, 80-241, 81-241, 82-241, 83-241, 84-241, 85-241, 86-241, 87-241, 88-241, 89-241, 90-241, 91-241, 92-241, 93-241, 94-241, 95-241, 96-241, 97-241, 98-241, 99-241, 100-241, 101-241, 102-241, 103-241, 104-241, 105-241, 106-241, 107-241, 108-241, 109-241, 110-241, 111-241, 112-241, 113-241, 114-241, 115-241, 116-241, 117-241, 118-241, 119-241, 120-241, 121-241, 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Three sets of children did not turn up and the other four turned up but with the fathers in tow.

say "Mama" repeatedly. And I boy with clear, sad eyes said: "I hate Libya. I want to go home". There were moments of the purest anger, on the part of the mother still denied access even after the long preparation and the long journey, and indeed on the part of this viewer.

But the Foreign Office is pursuing "wider interests" in Colonel Gaddafi's ghastly redoubt, I daresay a few children unhappily and illegally separated from their mothers constitute a mere side-show to the mandarins of Whitehall. But in whose name are these attitudes adopted? Not mine. Nor, I think, yours.


**Peter  
Barnard**

crossing balanced on a cork. It is all beautifully engineered without ever being slick, the latter a fault with one of Steven Bochco's other creations, *LA Law*.

Of course *NYPD Blue* owes more to an earlier Bochco effort, *Hill Street Blues*, but if that was great this is surely greater. *Hill Street* leant far too heavily on wild characterisation, *NYPD Blue* stands on the conventional props

## CHANNEL

**1.35 Once Upon A Time — Life.** An animated exploration of the human body (r) (8805078),  
**1.00 The Big Breakfast** (85498)  
**1.00 You Bet Your Life** (r) (s) (64714)  
**1.30 Schools:** Eureka! (869598) 9/45 Stop, Look, Listen (864144) 10/00 Fourways Farm (1450454) 10/10 Maths Everywhere (9202680) 10/25 How We Used to Live (9285415) 10/45 Coming Together (735347) 11/00 Science Focus (5106279) 11/22 Stage One (4820647) 11/38 Schools at Work (8639434) 11/45 First Edition (9613637)  
**1.00 House To House.** Political magazine introduced by Maya Even (1298)  
**1.30 Sesame Street** (90569) 1.30 Widget (r) (s) (1319565)  
**1.55 The Autobiography of a Jeep.** A light-hearted history of the general-purpose vehicle (8657714)  
**0.95 FILM: Yellow Sky** (1949, b/w) starring Gregory Peck, Anne Baxter and Richard Widmark. Western drama about an outlaw and his gang who hide out in a desert ghost town inhabited only by a gold prospector and his grand-daughter, after robbing a bank in Arizona. Directed by William Wellman. (Teletext) (867415)  
**1.00 Home Movies.** Life in the west country in days gone by captured by amateur film-makers (144)  
**1.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (328)  
**1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** A discussion on religious cults. (Teletext) (s) (8676231)  
**1.50 Terrors.** Classic cartoons (18598)  
**1.00 The Crystal Maze Childrens' Christmas Special** (r) (s) (48453)  
**1.00 Channel 4 News.** (Teletext) and weather (420786)  
**1.50 The Slot Viewers' soapbox** (892778)  
**1.00 Classic Trucks: Ticket to Ride.** (Teletext) (a) (5124)  
**1.30 Brookside.** (Teletext) (s) (9279)



**Talking heads.** Smith and Rhys Jones (9.00pm)

**Sandra Gough and Steve Halliwell (7.00pm)**

**Talking heads, Smith and Rhys Jones (9.00pm)**

George F. Scott as General Patton (11.30pm)

**11.30 FILM:** Patton — Lust for Glory (1970) starring George C. Scott. The first of a two-part biopic of the controversial American Second World War general. Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner. (Cinefax) (969347)

**12.50am Weather** (3695039)

LEON WALKER

**ANGLIA**  
As London except 10.55am-10.30 Anglia News and Weather (789910) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News (789207) 1.15p-1.30p Sunday Practice (103207) 2.30p-3.30p Blackadder (103203) 3.55p-5.30p Anglia News and Weather (82105) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (222970) 6.25p-7.10p Anglia News followed by Anglia News (84907) 7.30p-8.00 Food Guide (415) 10.30p-10.40p Anglia News (780357) 12.40am-1.00am Desires (Santana) (32305) *The Life Before* (Santana) (103203) 3.20am-3.40am *The Life Before* (Santana) (32305) 4.20 Live Travel (849125) 4.45-5.00 On the Loose Side (2087330)

**CENTRAL**

An Lomax (crops) 9.55-10.00 Central News  
7899100 12.20-12.30 Central News  
and Weather (7692076) 1.55 A Country Practice (1029730) 2.50-3.00 Bookmakers (7679453) 3.25-3.30 Central News (5212039) 3.50-4.00 Shortland Street (2229570) 4.05-4.00 Central News and Weather (7692076) 4.30-4.40 The Country (415) 16.30-16.40 Central News and Weather (7730057) 11.40-12.40 Police Crime Story (2606565) 4.10pm Jobholder (4172831) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (2900361)

(2229570) 8.55-9.00  
1 Happer (2175802) 8.55  
17.30-3.00-4.00 Surprise  
6.00 Held in Trust  
Mendian News and  
2.30pm Diango Angelo  
12.40 The Little Prince  
(2607303)  
(2607312) 4.45 CHN  
(2607330) 4.50-5.00 PM

**WESTCOUNTRY**

Dorchester (crops) 2.  
London (crops) 2.  
Dorset (crops) 8.00-7.

**GRANADA**  
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (7688108) 12.20pm-12.30 Granada News (7929276) 12.59 *Sherry Street* (762453) 2.55 *Home and Away* (1252698) 3.50 *London* (944591) 2.50 *Watch Your Wives Here - 7* (1775575) 2.50-3.20 *Emmerdale* (6784453) 3.25 *Granada News* (5212065) 3.30-3.40 *The Magic House* (8265274) 3.50-5.40 *A Country Practice* (2229750) 6.25 *Granada Tonight* (49078) 7.00 *Emmerdale* (61821) 7.30-8.00 *The Main* (40611) 7.30-8.00 *Home* (315am-3.45 *America's* 4.10-5.00 *Jobblyrd* (441

**INGREDIENTS** (11:50-12:30) *Granada News*  
(73057) 1:40 *Prisoner Cell Block H*  
(90065) 12:40am *Tracks of the Trade*  
(72125) 2:25 *The Little Picture Show*  
(933039) 3:15 *America's Top Ten* (57748)  
3:45 *Cinema: Cinema* (910026)  
4:10 *Jobfinder* (4457187) 5:00-5:30  
*Venues* (66161)

**HTV WEST**  
As London except: 9:55-10:00 *HTV West*  
*Headlines* (763810) 12:30pm-12:30 *HTV*  
*West News* 8:00 *Worship* (755576) 2:25

1.00 You Were Here-7 (1775144) 2.65-  
 2.99 Shortland Street (748581) 3.25-3.99  
 HTV West Headlines (5212095) 5.10-6.40 A  
 Country Profiles (2228750) 6.30-7.00 HTV  
 News (231) 7.30-8.00 West Eye View (A15)  
 10.30-10.40 HTV West Headlines and  
 Weather (730057) 3.15pm-3.45 America's  
 Top Ten (67748) 4.10-5.00 Joblinker  
 146571877  
 (7525144) 4.30 Tanyari  
 Saved By The Bell (232)  
 3.30 Countdown: (908)  
 (804502) 8.15 Hano (6)  
 Curn (4124) 7.30 Fetic  
 6.00 Hala Gharib (4)  
 (9278) 9.00 Y Wag 5  
 Backroads (22287) 10.30-  
 11.30 Ride The High Co

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Trust (415) 777 (57748)	Parliament Reply (72583) 4.30 CBS News (9105) 5.30-5.40 ABC News (95670)	EUR
Country Practice Portland Street and Mary (958547) 4.30- 4.35 The Laughing Picture Show (958549) 4.30	<b>SKY MOVIES</b> 6.00am Showcases (2209796) 6.00 Murder So Sweet (1933) (76818) 12.00 City Society (351637) 1.50pm Mad Men Season 1 (91) (8137279) 4.20 Crooks Anonymous (1983) (8002327) 5.55 Murder So Sweet (1933) As Told (1997252) 1 7.30 Close-Up: Map of the Human Heart (3589) 8.00 Don't Tell Mom the	7.30am Spring Tennis News (4778) (7239) (1290) <b>SKY</b>

9.30 Jockstrap	Spysavage's Dead (1981) (2724) 7.00	8.00
	Husbands and Wives (1982) (88838)	8.00
	11.30 Rush (1981) (187038) 1.50m R	8.00
	Romantic Comedy (1983) (938019) 3.30-5.00	8.00
	Deadly Strife (177545)	11.00
	<b>SKY MOVIES GOLD</b>	<b>SKY</b>
9.30 (55-199) 9.00	8.00pm Theme (1954) (22873) 8.00 The	12.00
9.30 Yaggon	Gate II (1988) (84512) 10.00-12.00 Pale	12.30
9.30 (21996)	Rever (1985) (70540)	12.30
1.00 Little Miss		12.30
1.00 The Mr Cooper		12.30
1.00 (1988) 2.50		12.30
1.00 The Number 10		12.30
1.00 (1988) 4.30		12.30
	<b>THE MOVIE CHANNEL</b>	

5 Pump (488)  
Newydon  
3) 7.00 Pabst Y  
rns Nest (547)  
Newydon  
2) (245) 10.00  
n (Told (53231)  
ry (782811)

(1952) 17(231) 6.00 Price to  
 The Underground Railway  
 (1953) 10.00 Cylons 2 (1953)  
 1.40 Bully the Vampire Slayer  
 (19336) 1.10am Comrades of  
 (1993) (203010) 3.00 Seed  
 (19752004) 4.55-5.55 Steen  
 (1959): As (196) (31391)  
 The information see the  
 replacement, published Saturday

**SPORTS**

Soccer News (1943182) 7.15 WWF  
 (19521) 8.15 Soccer News  
 8.30 World of Speed and Beauty  
 9.00 Showband Tour (19811) 9.30

12.00-3.00pm Golf (64221) 12.00  
 of European Golf (64221) 12.00  
 2c Style (78347) 12.30-pm Monday  
 (62989) 2.30 Powerboat  
 3.00-3.30 NBA Action (8057) 4.00  
 Pin Bowling (26882) 5.00 WWF  
 (2277) 5.00 Soccer  
 5.15 Fish-Tales (93540) 6.30  
 Ice Rugby (9521) 7.00 Scots '11 All  
 10.00 Ringfide Bowling (65162) 10.00  
 News (31613) 10.15 The Football-  
 asical Show (743095) 11.15 Games  
 (63882) 11.45 Fish-Tales  
 12.00-2.00pm Ringfide Bowling

**REPORT**

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News (15328) 9.00 Live Alpine  
5592 10.30 Tennis (22856) 11.30  
Sling (24163) 1.00pm Live  
148383 5.30 Football (22856) 6.30  
388) 7.30 Olympic Magazine  
00 Euroski (56434) 9.00 News  
10.00 Snooker (34724) 12.00-  
News (26283)

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**DAP**

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7:00am (7/20/25) 8:30 Payton Place  
 9:00 At the World Turns  
 10:00 Guiding Light (4005144)  
 30 Another World (4055088)

**LEVEL**

7:00am — Australia (7031144)  
 Zoo Luv with Jacki Hama  
 10:00 Trailside — Make Your Own  
 (4058724) 1.30 Pinks Franny's  
 America (8330250) 2.00 Califor-  
 (1072781) 2.30 Discover Your

**MAC**  
 11:00 Caribbean Vacation (7229144)  
 12:00 California Gold (8291540)

**TLC**

8:00am Room Service (7184889)  
 9:00am Room Service (7184889)  
 10:00 Room Service (7184889)  
 11:00 Room Service (7184889)  
 12:00 Room Service (7184889)  
 1:00 Room Service (7184889)  
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 10:00 Room Service (7184889)  
 11:00 Room Service (7184889)  
 12:00 Room Service (7184889)

2.00 Magic or Medicine? (427556)  
 Video Show (593575) 3.00-4.00  
 Went to Play Golf with Peter Alkins (722265)

**UK GOLD**  
 7.00am Give Us a Clue (724545)  
 Neighbours (723247) 8.00am So

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10.30-11.00 **THE PAGES** (P767837) 11.05 **Naked Video** (3771144) 11.45 **Dr Who** (9770415) 12.15 **F.M.** *The Finger Lift Hand! With Myra Loy* (4101800) 2.00 **Shopping at Night** (4233458)

**THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL**

6.00am **Sesame Street** (3813619) 6.45 **Cornell and Friends** (4235271) 7.55 **Sam the Cat** (3759208) 7.55 **Playhouse** (5174989) 8.25 **Super Mario Brothers** (3773076) 8.45 **Casper and Friends** (3584921) 9.00 **Sesame Street** (381911) 10.00 **Sam's It's Drombie Time**

5.30-12.00 **F.M.**  
drama with Frank

**UK LIVING**

6.00am **Agony Ho**  
Margaret (2258234)  
(7443262) 8.30  
(7442673) 9.00  
(4857873) 9.35 **NI**  
10.00 **Tina Turner**  
Susan Power **Shaw**  
Young and the  
(3070908) 1.30 **FI**

(70863) 11.00 Christopher C (283992)  
 (97858) 12.00 Garfield and Friends (29665)  
 12.30pm Eek the Cat (2278) 1.00 Super  
 Hits: Teens (91705) 1.30p Saver  
 Brothers (8368693) 1.45 Baby, Face  
 (58-69786) 2.00 Barney and Friends (3298)  
 2.30 Babar (7540) 3.00 Cooper and Friends  
 (8256737) 3.15 Where's Wally (603108) 3.45  
 Sonic the Hedgehog (800577) 4.15 Hard to  
 Head In 3D (4753328) 4.30-4.50 Puffin  
 (5796)

2.00 Agony Hour  
 Magazine (445571)  
 Glamour (87850)  
 (8425251) 4.30 The  
 Delta Smith's Coo  
 5.30 Kate and  
 Susan Power and  
 Mike (8433250)  
 (2466663) 8.00 The  
 (2421193) 9.00 The  
 11.00 Mr and Mrs  
 Information UK (44)

**NICKELDEON**

**7.00pm** *Nickelodeon* (1947124) **7.15** *Peewé's Playhouse* (190568) **7.45** *Rugrats* (19540) **8.15** *Doug* (75724) **8.45** *Nickelodeon* (1947127) **9.00** *Nick Jr.* (417502) **12.00** *Peewé's Playhouse* (74858) **12.30pm** *Muppet Show* (16453) **1.00** *Galaxy High School* (64076) **1.30** *Banana Sanderwich* (15724) **2.00** *Dennis* (8322) **2.30** *Strimberg* (5182) **3.00** *Nick Faves* (9899) **3.30** *Hero Twins* (7927) **4.00** *Doug* (6434) **4.30** *Rugrats* (2618) **5.00** *Clarissa* (1454) **5.30** *Nickelodeon Featuring Rocko* (6256)

Time	Channel	Program	Rating
4.00pm	Discovery	Nature Watch (7394095)	4.30
4.30pm	Australia	Wild (7390279)	5.00
5.00pm	Compass	(1230142)	5.00
5.00pm	Beyond	2000 (2551250)	
5.00pm	MTV	Axle on the Grind (74544)	
5.00pm	Wildside	(57502)	
5.00pm	Soul	(993)	

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**TV ASIA**

6.00am Persian Dawn (2761R) 7.00 Asia Morning (4852Z) 8.30a Buryand (2945Z) 9.00 Guparil Film (51754) 12.00 Gher (51540) 1.00pm Hindi Film (40181) 3.00 Nagar, Pane Road Nagar (6618) 4.30 Yagatari (7503) 5.30 Joe Pontham (1076) 5.30 Neengal Kaetta Pasadi (1182) 6.00 IVA and You (1661) 6.30 Buryand (7168) 7.00 New Music Show Video Junction (4360Z) 8.00 News (7618) 8.30 New Sensi Zindagi

(7255) 5.30 Where I  
 (286182) 6.35  
 7.00 Trivial Pursuit  
 (286183) 7.00  
 Moonlighting (48344)  
 (79124) 12.30 GP  
 (29322) 12.30  
 Big Brother Jake  
 (30749) 1.30  
 2.00 Moonlighting  
 (52767) 4.00 Fmola

**Brother Jake** (44941)  
**Laurie** (1948) (67883278) **12.30pm**  
**Reunion in France** (1942) (67041748) **2.25-**  
**5.00 Escape** (1940) (38502106)

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**Wadsie** (91293) **5.30**  
**6.00 Awake on the**  
**W J Ings** (864569)  
**12.00 Greatest Hits**

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**CNN/QVC**

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**CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is**  
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